

BY OUR FOREIGN STAFF

ALL 12 European Community countries are expected to recognise the independence of Slovenia and Croatia today, acknowledging the disintegration of Yugoslavia after a six-month civil war that has left more than six thousand dead and uprooted a million people.

The joint decision comes the day after an advance party of military officers arrived in Serbia and Croatia to prepare the ground for a 10,000-strong UN peacekeeping force. But Bosnia-Herzegovina and Macedonia will have to wait for recognition.

The EC move will be seen as a diplomatic triumph for Germany, which had already recognised Slovenia and Croatia but agreed to delay implementation until today while the other Community members sought guarantees on human rights, democracy and minorities. But France,

João de Deus Pinheiro, the foreign minister of Portugal, which holds the EC presidency, also hailed the joint decision in the face of serious doubts among diplomats over whether the Community could overcome divisions on

Greece has argued that Macedonia should change its name if it is to become independent. Greece's northern province is also called Macedonia and Athens fears that a neighbouring independent state of the same name could conceal future territorial claims.

As EC foreign ministers met in Lisbon to consider recognition of the republics yesterday, the first military officers arrived in Yugoslavia to pave the way for the UN's "blue helmet" troops. Twenty-five officers flew from Zagreb and a further 12 arrived by coach in Croatia. More members of the group, drawn from 18 nations including Britain, will accompany a convoy of equipment from Italy today, creating a 50-strong advance party.

The officers, led by Colonel John Wilson from Australia, will provide communications between military headquarters of the Yugoslav army in Belgrade and Croatia's national guard in Zagreb. The unarmed officers will be stationed at 11 troublespots as well as the two capitals. They will not venture into frontline areas, although later armed

groups peacekeepers will go to regions where the fighting has been fiercest.

Britain is expected to contribute several hundred personnel, but will not send an infantry battalion yet. The first assignment of British troops will include soldiers skilled in logistics, transport and communications. Medical teams will also be sent. The observers now arriving include three British majors from the UN mission on the Iraq-Kuwait border.

The composition of the full complement—the first to be deployed in mainland Europe—will depend on the recommendations of Cypriote, France, the UN envoy to Yugoslavia, when he has received reports from the advance party. Officials expect it to be based around 4,000 infantry troops being offered by France. The force will probably move into place within the next five weeks and the Foreign Office said yesterday that it was likely to be a long-running commitment.

It is not clear therefore that Britain might at some stage be asked to contribute combat troops.

As the UN was sending military staff to the trouble

zone, its refugee commission disclosed the vast human cost of the conflict. A million people had been uprooted, creating Europe's biggest refugee problem since the second world war.

Both Serbs and Croats had fled their homes, either out of fear or because they had been destroyed. Thousands had crossed the borders into Hungary, Austria, Germany and Italy, while others sought refuge in Croatia, Serbia and Bosnia. Many had been accommodated in private homes, but their hosts had thought they were offering shelter for just a short time and could no longer cope.

The refugees used ferries, tractors and any other form of transport they could find to escape the fighting, but the absence of tent cities means their plight has not attracted world attention. "The impact is tremendous," Judith Kumin, the UN's chief of mission in Belgrade, said yesterday. "We are used to seeing people coming from nothing and going to nothing, but these are middle-class Europeans. The psychological trauma for them is enormous."

Croatia mission, page 7

Major challenge

The Chancellor is currently considering tax cuts in the March budget, and Mr Kinnoch appeared to have scored when he claimed that the prime minister had said, of such tax cuts in a Harare interview in October for the *Today* newspaper, that they "would be unwise, would recreate problems and would be foot's gold". The Labour leader challenged Mr Major to say that he still stuck by those beliefs, allegedly expressed at last year's Commonwealth conference.

But Mr Major, clearly prepared, dismissed the Opposition leader's claim by saying that he had not applied the words to tax cuts, but to the idea of stimulating the economy with premature interest rate cuts. Mr Kinnock persisted in his claim despite the prime minister's assertion that he had been misled.

To the delight of Tory MPs, Mr Major asserted that not only had he not said what was being alleged by Mr Kinnock

Mr shrugs off tax change by Kinnock

BY ROBIN OAKLEY, POLITICAL EDITOR

THE first opinion poll of the new year to put the Conservatives ahead of Labour is published in today's Guardian. The ICM poll, conducted last Friday and Saturday,

puts support for the Conservatives at 42 per cent (up 3 points), Labour at 41 per cent (down 1) and the Liberal Democrats at 12 per cent (down 2). The poll suggests that the Conservative attack against Labour taxation policies is beginning to pay dividends.

Labour then circulated the full interview, as printed in the newspaper, including a passage quoting the prime minister as saying: "It would also mean tax cuts in the March Budget, just before the election. It is possible to do that but it is unwise."

tion. These do not record any such words and make it plain that the "fool's gold" expression had referred to any artificial stimulation of a minor economic boom.

In the full version, the prime minister rules out such action as "economic tricks", and promises, "I am not going to manipulate the economy just for short-term purposes". In response to another question on tax, in the same interview, he says, "If there is the prospect of tax

reductions we will take them and we will give people a better opportunity to spend their own money in their own way in their own interests on their own families."

Although Mr Kinnock then grumbled that Mr Major should have challenged the *Today* version of the interview earlier, MPs reckoned that the prime minister was the clear victor in the exchanges.

Letters, page 15

SOOTHES PAIN. FIGHTS INFECTION.

Come back Jimmy, page 12

BY JAMES BONE AND IAN MURRAY

IRAQ claimed yesterday that it had destroyed imported components for a gas centrifuge system that could have enabled it to enrich enough uranium for a nuclear bomb. But United Nations officials doubted whether all the components had been destroyed, and a senior UN inspector said Iraq had acknowledged for the first time that it built a uranium-enrichment programme, suitable for the production of nuclear bombs.

Pentagon officials expressed concern that President Saddam Hussein may still have a nuclear device. Richard Cheney, the defence secretary, said it was an "irritant" to Washington that Saddam was still in power a year after the Gulf war, but cautioned against operations involving "American military casualties" to oust him.

FROM MARTIN FLETCHER

PRESIDENT Bush's ageing body is beginning to protest. Looking pale, Mr Bush acknowledged yesterday that his 12-day trip to the Pacific rim had had a "terrible downside". He had been unable to sleep, he said, since his return last Friday.

Coming from one so proud of being in a state of perpetual motion, that was quite an admission. At the best of times Mr Bush sleeps only six hours a night, rising on weekdays at 5am. This bout of sleeplessness comes as he is recovering from the exhaustion and stomach flu that caused his Tokyo collapse.

Jobless warning, page 9
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Leading article, page 15

BY BENEDICT NIGHTINGALE

AFTER 35 years of sulking in secret, Jimmy Porter is about to emerge from his lair. His fangs may be yellower but his bite is almost more unforgiving than in 1956, when he first started chewing on people.

Defju, John Osborne's sequel to *Look Back in Anger*, was to open at Liverpool Playhouse in November. The production collapsed after a disagreement between the author and his leading actor, Peter O'Toole, who felt that the role of the ageing anti-hero needed cutting. But next week Faber publishes the text in all its unreconstructed ire.

Jimmy has prospered since he ran a sweet stall in Black Country obscurity. Like his creator, he now lives in some style in the shires. Could there conceivably be parallels between his small-talk and the views of the playwright?

On his ex-wife: "Alison looked spark-

ling to me last time I saw her — with a pack of nancy friends hot from some runaway gala for Aids Concern. I don't think old Mummy would have been too happy to see her fawned on by so many strutting sodomites. The old rhino might have roared a bit."

On pop concerts: "Have you noticed how they wave, like fields of rape, limp and twitching like bleary puppies. Numb and gormless, they wave, side to side, arms stretched up, worshipping, fixed on the choreographic grunt. . . Numbered and nameless, they are silent."

On Britain: "I am a contrailow; a young couple waiting 12 hours at the airport; I am a baggage handler on strike; I am a survey, an infrastructure, a mortgage wrapped about my inability to have an orgasm; I am a government statistic, a gymslip mother, I am a Wallman with an inalienable right to hope and happiness and rights. . ."

on state pillows, being cathetised and patronised by some hell's angel of check-out mercy, young Nurse Noylene,
I shall rise like some last-gasp Lazarus
of a bygone smoke-filled civilisation; I
shall rise from my bed of unheeding
profligacy and if any frowning gauleiter
breathes their concern or care over my
fetid and exhausted form, or any
smarmy dietitian daries lay her menu of
lower-middle-class mush, asking old Mr.
Porter what putrid filth he'd like to pass
through his National Health dentures;
if any of these creeping refuse collectors
should refer to me as a senior citizen,
they will get one last almighty smack in
their sanctified meaty—ing mouth."

Then, no doubt, Jimmy will light the very last Turkish cigarette a malign Europe has allowed him — just like the Osborne whom readers of *The Times* letter page have come to know and love.

Come back Jimmy, page 12

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Employers seeking chief executives, managers and other senior staff are advertising tomorrow in *The Times'* 16-page appointments section, circulated in Britain.

Osborne: unperformed play to be published

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BR compensates travellers delayed by new year breakdown



Rail payout: Ken Kallis, transport chairman for Devon, at Exeter station

By MICHAEL HORSNELL

RAIL passengers returning from new year holidays and excursions, who arrived at Exeter more than two hours late from London, were told yesterday that they will receive compensation. British Rail disclosed that it will give free travel vouchers and repay local taxi fares, together worth thousands of pounds.

The compensation, which will give a big boost to the government's proposed citizen's charter, is for passengers trapped on three trains to the West Country on January 2. The 16.15 Network SouthEast express to Exeter via Basingstoke, Andover, Salisbury and Yeovil broke down near Overton, Hampshire. Two other trains behind it were severely delayed as passengers

were diverted. BR's decision to invite claims follows a letter to Sir Bob Reid, its chairman, from Paddy Ashdown, leader of the Liberal Democrats, who received complaints from his constituents in Yeovil, Somerset.

Mr Ashdown said: "I am very glad BR has recognised its responsibility to passengers over the horrendous problems they endured that night. The compensation will help in some way, although not everyone will realise it is available."

Geoff Penn, aged 69, a retired civil servant and chairman of Yeovil Rail Action Group, said that the route on which the delays occurred was suffering from continuing use of "completely worn out locos" and rolling stock built between 1967-8, with two million miles on the clock. BR policy to look at

individual cases and compensate is right."

BR paid £7 million compensation to passengers last year for delays and cancellations. A spokesman said: "We have a moral, if not a legal, responsibility to get people to their destinations and compensate them particularly if they miss their last train or a connection. If customers have any problems, we encourage them to write."

Tens of thousands of commuters had their rail journey home disrupted last night after a power failure at Waterloo station in London. British Rail said that the station was evacuated and closed for 50 minutes just before the start of the peak rush hour due to "a high voltage feeder cable failure".

Leading article, page 15

Robbery jailing quashed on appeal

A fourth man convicted and jailed on "supergrass" evidence provided by the disbanded West Midlands serious crimes squad was freed by the Court of Appeal yesterday (Richard Ford writes).

Valentine Cooke, aged 28, of Birmingham, who had been implicated in five armed robberies and attempted robbery, had his convictions declared "unsafe and unsatisfactory" by three appeal court judges. A ten-year sentence imposed in 1989 was set aside.

The decision follows the quashing in October last year of the convictions of three other men implicated by Paul Jarvis, an informer to the discredited squad, in two separate trials in Birmingham.

Daniel Lynch, jailed for ten years for serious crime, and Gerald and Ronald Gall, jailed for three and two years respectively for their alleged roles in the shooting of a night-club doorman, were cleared by the appeal court.

Yesterday, Lord Lane, the Lord Chief Justice, sitting with Mr Justice Kennedy and Mr Justice Jowitt, said that the informer's evidence implicating Mr Cooke was unsupported and his convictions could not be upheld. However, the judges refused to intervene in the case of Samuel Corcoran, aged 30, of Birmingham who had been implicated in the shooting of the night-club doorman.

Still awaiting appeal hearings are Michael Bromell, serving a seven-year sentence for wounding, and Glen Lewis, of Wolverhampton, jailed for ten years for robbery.

Editor to take university post

Peter Scott, the editor of *The Times Higher Education Supplement* since 1976, is to become a professor of education at Leeds University next September. The appointment, to develop the university's work in further and higher education, was announced as the paper celebrated its 1,000th edition.

Sir Edward Pickering, chairman of *The Times Supplement*, said that Mr Scott had established the paper as the leading authority on higher education in Britain. "His contribution to the paper's progress has been immense, and he goes to this important new appointment with the good wishes of his colleagues and friends."

Marquess 'too ill for court'

The Marquess of Bristol failed to attend court to answer four drug charges at Bury St Edmunds, Suffolk, yesterday because, his barrister said later, he was being treated at a London clinic for a drug-related condition.

Lord Bristol, aged 37, of Ickworth Park, Horringer, Suffolk, was accused of two offences of possessing drugs and a further two of possession with intent to supply. The case was adjourned for a month when Lord Bristol would be fit to attend, the court was told. Bail was renewed.

Anti-Nazi group relaunched



The Anti-Nazi League was relaunched at the House of Commons yesterday amid warnings that followers of Adolf Hitler were making significant advances again in Europe.

Peter Heath, above, Labour MP for Neath, a founder of the organisation in the late 1970s, said that the relaunch was set off by the revival of the British National Party and its plans to field more than 50 candidates in the next election, the rise of Nazi and right-wing extremist activity in Europe and the increase in racial attacks in Britain.

CORRECTION

Our Review of 1991 published on 28 December misquoted Gerald Ratner's comment to the Institute of Directors in April. He did not say that Ratner's Group's profits came from selling people what they wanted. "Total crap," that description was light-heartedly reserved for one gift item and not to the jewellery or any other item sold by Ratner. We apologise to Gerald Ratner.

Minister hails reform of NHS

Continued from page 1

November last year. The number waiting for two years fell by 35 per cent to 32,810 in the same period. Only one region, Trent, showed a rise — of 7 per cent — in the number of patients waiting more than a year. Mr Waldegrave was confident that the remaining patients on two-year lists would be treated by April this year, when the two-year maximum guarantee promised in the patient's charter takes effect.

The report from the NHS management executive had "confounded the sceptics" who had said that the reforms would never work. "In fact they are working and working well: delivering real benefits to patients and increasingly attracting the loyalty, as well as the commitment, of staff," he said.

Duncan Nichol, the NHS chief executive, admitted yesterday that he had intervened a number of times to "act as broker" between regions, districts and hospitals to ensure that funds totalling more than £200 million, between 0.5 and 1 per cent of the NHS hospital budget, were rapidly allocated to places which were running into difficulties after treating more patients than agreed.

Mr Nichol maintained yesterday that the reserve funds would be sufficient to ensure that all hospitals would balance their books by the end of the year. "This is the first year for many years that this can be said," he said. "To be able to treat many more patients while remaining on target financially is a considerable achievement. It shows that NHS staff at all levels have reacted well to the introduction of the reforms and are making them work."

Robin Cook, the Labour health spokesman, immediately disputed Mr Waldegrave's claims that the reforms had led to record treatment levels. Mr Cook produced figures from two years ago that showed similar increases in patient activity. His figures, which were not disputed by Mr Nichol, showed that the number of in-patients treated rose by 1.3 per cent in 1989-90, compared with a projected 1.5 per cent this year.

The British Medical Association was also unimpressed by the report, saying that it "makes no attempt to show whether the increases are reflected equally in trust and non-trust hospitals".

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Sell-off may divide coalfields between two companies

By PHILIP WEBSTER, CHIEF POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

BRITAIN'S coal industry could be sold off as two companies, one amalgamating the Scottish and Yorkshire coalfields and the other the Welsh and Nottinghamshire pits.

The proposal has emerged in Whitehall as one of the options for the privatisation of the industry, a central plank of the next Conservative election manifesto. John Wakeham, the energy secretary, who will leave the Commons at the general election, has already made plain that he will leave the decision on how the industry will be broken up to his successor.

Labour will push rail investment

By MICHAEL DYNES, TRANSPORT CORRESPONDENT

BRITISH Rail will be told to go ahead with investment schemes worth hundreds of millions if Labour gets in at the next election, John Prescott, the party's transport spokesman, said yesterday.

The schemes, which have all been frozen by the government because of the recession, include £127 million of new rolling stock for Network SouthEast's Kent link lines, £250 million for the Thameslink project to improve journeys between north and south London, and £140 million for Ashford international station to accompany the opening of the Channel tunnel in 1993.

Labour's approval of the schemes was given in a letter that Mr Prescott sent Sir Bob Reid, the BR chairman, which outlined the party's rail investment plans should it win the general election.

The letter also told Sir Bob that he would be expected to halt all preparatory work aimed at privatising the railways, while a new framework for railway funding was

worked out. Mr Prescott said: "The Labour government will instruct BR to redirect all resources to improving the quality of rail services." BR would also be instructed to prepare detailed costs for its ten-year investment programme. Future Rail, Mr Prescott said.

Walking a tightrope between Conservative and Labour party rail policies, Sir Bob earlier rejected claims that BR was either opposed to privatisation or in favour of selling off the railway as a single unit. He said that his view was that both propositions were wrong.

Sir Bob said that who owned the industry was a matter for the government or shareholders to decide. "Our job is not to advocate and not to oppose. It is to advise, as railway professionals, on the practicality of any evolving proposals."

The railways board could see no objection in principle to the involvement of private sector capital in the rail business, he added.

At the same time ministers are privately suggesting that steep falls in electricity prices could come next year as the government paves the way for the sale of the coal industry. Confidential government forecasts are said to suggest reductions of up to 5 per cent for domestic consumers as a result of the new contract about to be negotiated between British Coal and its main customers, the electricity generators PowerGen and National Power.

Ministers say the much-increased productivity of the coal industry and the threat to it of the growing imports of foreign coal means that British Coal will be forced to offer competitive prices to the generators. They foresee reductions for industrial and domestic users of 3 to 5 per cent, or more than 5 per cent if they are concentrated purely on domestic consumers.

By the time British Coal is sold, some three years into the next parliament if the Conservatives win the election, it will be further slimmed down because of the new demands on it to be competitive resulting from the contract negotiations, ministers believe.

As a result they expect it to be an attractive proposition for buyers, particularly as the government will be taking over the obligation of paying the pensions of workers who have already left the industry and subsidence claims resulting from the days when the industry was in the public sector. "It will be a clean purchase," one senior minister said yesterday.

It is clear that three main options are emerging from studies being conducted within the energy department. One is for British Coal to be sold off as one large business; the second is for a British Coal with separate Welsh and Scottish subsidiaries; and the third is for the industry to be split into two, with the Scottish and Yorkshire coalfields in one company, and the Nottinghamshire and Welsh in another.

Senior ministers say that the electricity privatisation means that the coal industry will be compelled to offer a competitive deal for the new contract, which starts in April 1993.

Foreign imports have steadily increased through the Eighties. In 1987 Britain imported 9.9 million tonnes; last year the figure was 16.9 million tonnes. With 80 per cent of British Coal's output going to the generators the industry may have to reduce its prices if it is to beat off the foreign competition.

Journalists seek injunction on pension deductions

By TIM JONES

JOURNALISTS at the *Daily Mirror* are to seek a high court injunction preventing any part of their salary being deducted by the company into the group occupational pension scheme.

The move, by the *Mirror's* National Union of Journalists branch, comes after the disclosure by the new trustees of the pension scheme that there would be no money for group workers and former employees with deferred pension rights unless some £400 million plundered by Robert Maxwell can be recovered.

Since learning the news from a bulletin posted on a blackboard in the foyer of the *Mirror's* Holborn Circus office, the newspaper has been thrown into turmoil as staff

try to come to terms with the prospect of retirement without a pension. Some workers who have served the paper for 20 years stand to lose more than £80,000.

Yesterday, as they produced their newspaper, the journalists fell into two camps, the pessimists who said that at a late time in life they would have to start all over again and the optimists who expressed faith that the proposed management buy-out would repair the damage. The optimists swapped photocopies of a *Financial Times* report which said that the true deficit was only £250 million which could be put right over a number of years.

Terry Pattinson, the paper's industrial editor, said: "My dreams of retiring when I was about 60 have vanished into thin air. I have been on the *Mirror* for more than 16 years and estimate I must have lost about £50,000 from the pension fund. It is quite a shock to realise I have been putting money into a holed bucket which was itself going over Niagara falls."

"We are considering court action to prevent the company from deducting from our salaries 6 per cent every month."

Another senior *Mirror* journalist said: "I am sure everything will be alright. The *Mirror* has always looked after its own people."

No right to silence, page 14

'Private' legal aid urged

By FRANCES GIBB, LEGAL CORRESPONDENT

THE Government should provide legal aid for people to pursue disputes before private mediators because the courts are no longer adequate, the Adam Smith Institute says today. They are inefficient, overcrowded and the time has come to develop private ways of resolving civil disputes which will be speedier and cheaper, it says in a report.

The Institute calls for the Government to back the development of "alternative dispute resolution", or ADR, which it says gives the public the service it demands in the private sector.

ADR, in which parties take their dispute before a private mediator, is just starting in Britain, the report says. In America however the practice can resolve disputes in six months instead of the usual two years of public court time. Costs are also much lower.

Yesterday the Lord Chancellor's department said officials were still considering the subject. The Lord Chancellor has on occasions suggested that alternative ways of settling disputes should be examined.

"Judgement Day — The Case for Alternative Dispute Resolution" by Adam Thierier, from the Adam Smith Institute, 23 Great Smith Street, London, SW1P 3BL, £17.

Leading article, page 15

Judges shun local consultative role

JUDGES are refusing to participate at a local level with the government's initiative on the criminal justice system (Frances Gibb and Richard Ford write).

The criminal justice consultative council, which holds its first meeting at the Home Office today, was a key proposal of Lord Justice Woolf in his 1990 report on prison riots. The council is intended to be a national forum bringing together for the first time all the parts of the criminal justice system and to promote better understanding, co-operation and co-ordination.

It had been hoped in some official quarters that a senior judge would have chaired the committee but that position will be taken by the permanent secretary at the Home Office. Although there are two judges, Lord Justice Farquharson and Judge Fisher, on the national committee, there will be none on the area committees which will mirror the work of the main committee at local level.

The government had hoped that the judiciary would take a more positive attitude. Lord Lane, the Lord Chief Justice, believes that involving judges in possible formulation of policy, alongside police and government officials, would compromise judicial independence.

While acknowledging judicial concern, the Home Office argues that the government would benefit from the expertise of the judiciary.

Wives 'must take stand'

WIVES who accuse their husbands of rape would have to give evidence in court under proposals outlined yesterday for legislation on rape within marriage.

The proposals are put forward by the Law Commission, the official law reform body of England and Wales, which endorses the House of Lords' ruling last October that men can be found guilty of raping their wives.

The commission also makes clear that in spite of opposition from the Council of Circuit Judges, husbands should be covered by the law of rape whether or not they are living with their wives.

Modern times, page 6

Crown jewels will be given a more luxurious setting

By ALAN HAMILTON

SO MANY visitors want to see the crown jewels, the world's most valuable set of rocks, that they are to be moved from their subterranean strongroom in the Tower of London to a location more able to handle the crowds.

Such are the queues to catch a glimpse of the Imperial state crown and the other regalia, and so bad the tempers in the crawling crocodile that shuffles past the display in its dimly-lit basement, that the Historic Royal Palaces Agency, which

runs the tower, has appointed consultants and an architect to design a better setting.

Colonel Hamish Mackinlay, deputy governor of the tower, said yesterday that the Jewel House, where the regalia has been displayed since 1967, had been designed to handle up to 8,000 visitors a day, but that numbers were regularly double that. In 1990 the tower, the most popular paid attraction in Britain, handled 2.3 million visitors. Because of the Gulf war and other factors, numbers fell during 1991 to 1.9 million, but

business was expected to recover and to expand.

The most likely location for a new display was on the ground floor of the Waterloo block of the tower, Col Mackinlay said. "The present Jewel House was a great design in its time, but it has become overloaded."

At present visitors face long queues to enter the Jewel House, before joining a slow procession which offers little opportunity to study the jewels at length. Visitors may leave the queue and stand in a gallery at the rear, but the displays

are then too far away to be seen in detail. "One of the problems is that the wardens have to keep people on the move all the time: this can lead to friction," Col Mackinlay said.

Before the Jewel House was built the display was housed in the nearby Wakefield Tower, but the ever-increasing number of visitors, who now pay £6 a head to see all the tower's attractions, made a move essential. Revenue from admissions is estimated at more than £11.5 million a year.

The tower hopes to have the jewels on display in their new home

in the spring of 1994. Until then they would remain on show as normal, except for the traditional four-week closure in January when they are cleaned and maintained.

Moving the jewels, which are too valuable to be insured, has raised fears for their security, but only one thief has ever got his hands on them. In 1671 Captain Blood, an Irish rogue, made off with them, but he had not got more than a few yards when he was apprehended and tackled, and the crown of England went rolling ignominiously down the gutter of a City street.

Woman attacked as rapist on prison leave fails to return

BY PAUL WILKINSON

A CONVICTED rapist with a history of sexual assaults on women has failed to return to Leyhill open prison, near Bristol, after a weekend on home leave.

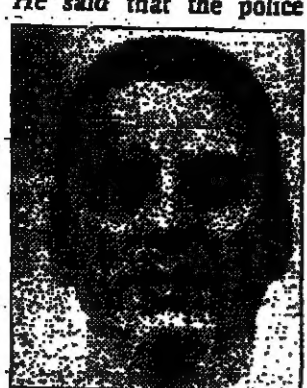
Avon and Somerset police took the unusual step yesterday of naming Trevor Hanson, aged 47, after a young woman was attacked at knife-point in Bristol on Monday evening. Hanson, from Halifax, West Yorkshire, was serving a life sentence imposed 20 years ago for raping a girl aged 18 near Leeds.

The search for Hanson began after an attack on the woman, aged 23, in a car park adjoining the Holiday Inn in central Bristol. She was returning to her car when a man spoke to her.

She became suspicious and tried to get into the car but the man grabbed her by the throat, pushed her into the car, produced a table knife

and threatened to kill her. Detective Constable Sean Dunne, who praised the woman for fighting back, said that she "struggled, shouted, screamed and hollered. She did really well and a man came running to her aid. Her attacker made off."

He said that the police



Hanson: police say that he is dangerous

wished to interview Hanson because of fears for public safety. "We consider he is very dangerous."

Hanson is white, with cropped graying brown hair. He is medium build and has a day's growth of beard. He was wearing faded blue jeans, a pale blue cotton anorak and soft-soled shoes.

Nick Wall, the governor of Leyhill, declined to comment on individual cases. He said: "A number of prisoners are allowed on home leave up to six times a year provided they meet certain criteria. All prisoners who come to Leyhill have been vetted as suitable for open conditions."

Dawn Primarolo, Labour MP for Bristol South, has written to Kenneth Baker, the home secretary, asking why Hanson was allowed home visits. "Several extremely serious questions need to be asked," she said. "Why was this man put in an open prison in the first place?"

Jonathan Sayed, Conservative MP for Bristol East, said: "To allow this man out was a mistake, an error of judgment by the prison authorities. He was jailed for life and he should be kept in jail for life."

The Home Office said that Hanson was on three-days home leave and was due to return to the prison on Monday evening. "He failed to return and is now posted as unlawfully at large."

Hanson has a history of sex attacks in Yorkshire, including one on a schoolgirl aged 15. In the late 1960s and early 1970s he carried out a series of attacks in and around Huddersfield. He repeatedly struck within weeks of being released from prison after serving sentences for attempted rape and robbery with violence.

At his trial at Leeds Crown Court in January 1971, he admitted the rape and another charge of attempted rape and indecent assault. The court was told he had three previous convictions involving women.

Last night a man was helping police with their enquiries.



Life line: Helen Bennett, a nurse at St Thomas' Hospital, south London, with ten-day-old Rebecca Hobbs, who weighs 3lb 7oz. The hospital yesterday started a £5 million campaign to fund research into premature birth.

Speaking at the launch, the Duchess of York, whose obstetrician, Anthony Kenney, is a consultant at the hospital, said: "Too many babies' first experience of life is an incubator and we would like to change this by concentrated research."

She said that the campaign, which has as its mascot a streetwise baby named Tommy, "is based on people having fun, which is the particular element which appeals to me."

Campaign organisers will ask people around Britain to hold "potty" fund-raising events. Dennis the Menace has also been enlisted for the cause, which aims to collect £3.5 million for The Baby Fund Research Trust and £1.5 million to improve mother and baby facilities at St Thomas'. The duchess met Freddie Simon, aged five months, who spent the first three weeks of his life in an incubator at the hospital.

As he slept peacefully on her shoulder, his mother, Georgina, said her first baby had been stillborn and that Freddie had been born by Caesarean section when a scan showed that he had stopped growing at 32 weeks.

Nigel Havers and Maureen Lipman, the actors, and politicians were also at the launch.

Connery sues over 'coward' report

JASON Connery, the actor, yesterday asked a High Court jury in London to award him damages over a newspaper report that called him a coward who would rather kill himself than fight for his country.

The story about the son of the actor Sean Connery appeared on his 28th birthday, January 11 last year, the eve of the Gulf war.

Mr Connery, of King's Road, Chelsea, west London, listened as his counsel, George Carman QC, told Mr Justice Drake that the story in *The Sun* had claimed "I couldn't fight in Gulf says 007 son" caused him "enormous distress".

Mr Connery, who has played Robin of Sherwood and Ian Fleming, the creator of James Bond, is seeking "very substantial" libel damages over the "nasty and vicious" attack in which he was quoted as saying he would rather run a mile and bury himself alive than go to war.

The article continued: "I'm a bit of a wimp on the quiet and the whole Gulf situation scares me absolutely to death. I am not the blindly brave gung-ho type at all."

Mr Carman said: "When young men of Jason Connery's age and generation were out there in the desert waiting to fight for their country, he was accused of cowardice — not a conscientious objector, but afraid to fight for his country."

The story also said that his father had served in the Royal Navy. Mr Carman said that one of the article's libellous meanings was that Jason Connery was prepared to undermine the morale of the young men in the Gulf and their families.

"We say it is a deliberate, nasty and vicious attack on a young man's character. It was designed to contrast him with his father, who had indeed served in the RN, to point out he had played heroic roles, and to cause him maximum injury and distress at a time when war was about to break out."

Kevin Mackenzie, the editor of *The Sun*, publishers News Group Newspapers, and journalists Andrew Coulson and Lesley Ann Jones, all deny libel. The hearing continues today.

Navy flier smuggled woman aboard

A MARRIED Royal Navy helicopter observer who smuggled a woman into his cabin aboard HMS Ark Royal after going ashore at a north American port was fined £500 and severely reprimanded at a court martial yesterday.

Lieutenant Stephen Beirne, aged 30, finally admitted the truth to officers after a two-and-a-half hour search of the ship in Mayport, Virginia. Lieutenant Commander Peter Crabtree, for the prosecution, told the hearing in Plymouth, Devon.

In a statement Lt Beirne, of the 820 Naval Air Squadron, admitted that he brought the woman aboard and that she had stayed in his cabin, but he denied having sex with her, although he got on the bed in his boxer shorts and she got on the bed as well, said Lieutenant Commander Penny Melville-Brown, for the defence. They had chatted and smoked.

When searching officers opened the cabin door the girl was "observed by him", the hearing was told. In a panic he denied having a girl aboard.

Lt Beirne, married with three children, pleaded guilty to having a civilian woman on board without reasonable excuse, and to two charges of lying to an officer who questioned him during the search.

Commander Melville-Brown said that Beirne and friends had met some girls in a bar and Beirne had gone to another bar with one of them. "He decided it was time to leave and that the girl went home, but she insisted on seeing the ship."

During a third search of the ship Beirne opened his cabin door in response to a knock and said: "It's a fair cop. Yes, I do have a woman in here." He said he thought he could smuggle the girl off the ship with the next day's visitors. Beirne was not concerned with making a sexual conquest. "This was a married man in a situation which got completely out of control."

The defending officer said that Beirne, a helicopter observer during the Gulf war, had heard how unattractive his wife was. "His family life has been truly shattered."

Officer 'stole book from dead actor'

A CORONER'S officer who collected autographs of the famous stole from the home of Kenneth Williams while the late comedy actor's body lay in the flat, a court was told yesterday.

Roy Bellamy was accused of taking a signed copy of the actor's autobiographical *Back Drops*, to add to his collection. When police searched Mr Bellamy's home in September 1990 they found an extensive display of autographed photos of film and television stars collected by Mr Bellamy and his wife.

Anthony Leonard, for the prosecution, told Southwark crown court that Mr Bellamy, aged 42, coroner's officer for St Pancras, north London, took advantage of his position of trust to steal from the homes he visited of those who were dead.

Mr Williams, a regular star in the *Carry On* comedy films, died in April 1988 and his body was discovered by his mother who lived in the flat next door in Regent's Park, north London. Mr Williams' sister, Patricia Williams, told the court that she had later written to Mr Bellamy thanking him for his kindness at the inquest.

"As Barbara Windsor and I were leaving the court, I was in tears and Barbara was choking back tears and Mr Bellamy asked if we would like to go into an ante-room to compose ourselves before going out," she said. "Mr Bellamy was kind at the in-

quest. I was very grateful to him because I have always stayed in the background whenever possible. I don't go for this publicity."

Mr Bellamy had searched the flat and taken some pills which might have been relevant to the cause of death and a diary kept by Mr Williams. He also picked up a copy of *Back Drops* and put it in his briefcase. Mr Leonard said. The diary and other effects were later returned to Mr Williams' relatives but the copy of his autobiography was never given back.

Earlier, WPC Susan Turner told the court that she saw Mr Bellamy put a copy of the book into his briefcase. She identified the paperback, which had a colour photo of Mr Williams on the cover, as being similar.

Mr Leonard said that while Mr Bellamy was investigating the death of Anne Demele, an elderly spinster, he also stole stamps from her collection and more than £400 of her pension savings. During his search, he opened a fridge in the woman's bedroom in Hampstead, north London, and offered other officers a chocolate, saying: "It will only go off."

Mr Bellamy, of Chalk Farm, north London, denies stealing the book from the estate of Kenneth Williams in 1988 and two charges of theft from the estate of Miss Demele in August 1990. The trial continues today.



Laughing away his woes: Mickey Thomas, right, the Wrexham and former Welsh international footballer, being helped yesterday by Wrexham magistrates' court, Clwyd, after he was released on bail on a charge of distributing counterfeit currency. Thomas, who denies the charge, had returned into custody after misplacing his passport, which he had to surrender under bail conditions, but it was later found.

Stevens will cut heritage red tape

BY SIMON TAIT, ARTS CORRESPONDENT

JOCELYN Stevens, who takes over the chairmanship of English Heritage on April 1, has indicated that he will initiate a radical overhaul of the organisation, which he sees as inefficient, bureaucratic, not bold enough and overstuffed.

Mr Stevens is rector of the Royal College of Art, where he has transformed the campus and the academic structure. Before he leaves at the end of the summer term, his new £12 million building is to be opened and called the Stevens Building.

He says that the 1,700 English Heritage staff based in London should move to the regions. Money which should be spent on protecting the heritage is being wasted on high West End rents.

Even the English Heritage logo of a crenellated tower will be under threat because it suggests an unapproachable nature, he says. "The image is a very forbidding one, and English Heritage has to be accessible, reaching out, looking as if it really cares about the heritage and protecting it. Instead it's got a reputation for blocking things."

English Heritage, whose

formal title is the Historic Buildings and Monuments Commission for England, was set up in 1983 as a free-standing part of the environment department. In 1986 it took over the responsibilities for historic buildings from the abolished metropolitan county authorities, and this year will help to fund cathedral maintenance.

Since its foundation, it has been chaired by Lord Montagu of Beaulieu, founder of the National Motor Museum in Hampshire. Mr Stevens said: "Edward Montagu has battled hard and valiantly, but he has been fighting against a bureaucracy which spends most of its time producing paper for still more committees. There is a civil service attitude which is about looking after one's own position, and that will have to go."

Mr Stevens said that he would not champion preservation against progress. He plans an exhibition at the Royal College of Art which will question the wisdom of protecting sites which may not be unique at the cost of development and innovation.

Interview, page 12

Benidorm ends chimpanzee abuse

BY HARVEY ELLIOTT TRAVEL CORRESPONDENT

ENLIGHTENED self-interest has finally persuaded the local council in Benidorm to join the long-running campaign to rid Spanish holiday resorts of drug-besotted chimpanzees owned by beach photographers by passing a law enabling police to confiscate the animals.

The town has long turned a blind eye to the use of animals as photographers' props, but it has found that, with the Olympic Games coming to Barcelona and Expo to Seville this year, it could no longer afford to ignore the growing pressure of world opinion. So far, however, Benidorm is the only city or town to have passed a specific law against the exploitation of animals, with most of Spain remaining apparently bemused at the concern shown by Britain.

Spain argues that such laws could put many of their most popular local

characters out of business. The Spanish government managed to persuade the European Commission to drop a planned court case which would have condemned it for failing to impose international regulations governing the commercial exploitation of endangered species.

Cyril Rosen, of the International Primate Protection League, which has campaigned for 14 years against alleged Spanish indifference to the feelings or welfare of animals, was both pleased and cynical about the move. "It is about time someone took some action," he said. "The Spanish government managed to persuade the EC that they were doing their best to stop the exploitation of animals such as chimpanzees. They said they had confiscated 30 since 1986, but we know that today at least 150 are being used regularly throughout Spain."

"We will now be renewing our campaign to get British tourists to act as monitors and tell us whenever they see

a chimpanzee, or any animal for that matter, being used for commercial gain."

The World Wide Fund for Nature is also stepping up its pressure on the Spanish government through brochures distributed among tour operators. "It is illegal to use an imported animal for commercial gain," a fund official said. "They are ignoring these rules even though they are signatories to the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species."

"They managed to persuade the European Commission to drop the case against them and we must now rely on public pressure and the activities of the occasional enlightened community, such as Benidorm, to stamp out this awful practice."

Chimpanzees, imported illegally from Africa, are often drugged by their photographer handlers, have their teeth removed so that they cannot bite, are dressed in children's clothes and beaten to keep them submissive.

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Heritage lost in rape of churches

BY RUTH GLEDHILL, RELIGION CORRESPONDENT

THIEVES are sacking churches in one of the greatest rages of Britain's heritage since the Reformation. Church of England clergy were told yesterday. One in four churches in London can expect to be burgled this year and churches throughout the country can expect to lose irreplaceable chalices, carvings, statues and even pews, a seminar on church security was told.

Colin Coxall, assistant commissioner with the City of London police, called for a strategy to tackle the thefts and vandalism. "There are well-established markets for items of value from churches, accompanied by a world increase in prices. The best results can be achieved by involving the church, the police and the community at large."

Insurance claims for arson, theft and malicious damage increased from 5,500 in 1990 to 6,500 last year. The Ecclesiastical Insurance Group, which insures more than 95 per cent of Anglican churches, expects to receive 8,000 claims this year. Of last

year's claims, more than 3,000 involved thefts of over £1.5 million.

Bob Johnson, the group's metropolitan surveyor, said that professional gangs were targeting oak furniture, paintings, coats of arms, computers and anything which could be adapted for secular use. "In some cases there is literally nothing left to steal." At St Botolph's, Aldgate, in the City, a 4ft Victorian cast iron cherub and plinth was taken from the forecourt in November and antiques worth more than £2,000 were taken from St Michael's, Wandsworth Common, southwest London.

The Ven George Cassidy, Archdeacon of London, said: "Many people, especially young people, still feel the church is a symbol of authority. Frustration can show itself by an attack on authority."

Sgt Alan Walker, of Staffordshire police, said: "We are responsible for our heritage for future generations. In 200 years, someone is going to be asking why someone did not do something."



Mourning losses: the Rev Andrew Horton, of St Michael's church, Wandsworth Common, which has lost antiques worth more than £2,000

Nursing and residential care practice

Homes 'drug and shackle' elderly

BY JEREMY LAURANCE, SOCIAL SERVICES CORRESPONDENT

THE USE of pindown tactics to restrain elderly people has turned residential and nursing homes into "prisons in suburbia", says a report published yesterday.

Old people are routinely being locked up, shackled and drugged by staff to make them easier to look after in homes which charge £200 to £400 a week, it says. Some are strapped into their chairs or barricaded in tight spaces and left for hours at a time.

The report, by Counsel and Care, an independent advisory group for the elderly, says that many old people are restrained to a degree which unacceptably limits their freedom. So many homes keep their front doors permanently locked that they are "little prisons in suburbia".

Jef Smith, the group's general manager, said: "We have heard of people tied to lavatories and left for some minutes or, on occasion, some hours before someone comes to check them. Tying older

people into beds or chairs is still practised. It should be outlawed. We wouldn't permit it for prisoners. We feel it is outrageous that it should be used for frail old people."

The charity, which visits 800 private and voluntary homes in London every year, says that there is widespread use of sedatives and that some homes monitor residents with intercoms and video cameras. Many use chairs with tables that lock across the occupants' laps, and beds with raised cut sides or bedding that can be zipped up.

The report calls on the government to issue clearer guidelines on what forms of restraint are permissible. "If a home has a busy road outside, and a client is liable to wander, there is a real dilemma," Mr Smith said. "We accept that some restraint is needed but feel that physical forms should be outlawed."

Often relatives are concerned about the risk of injury and staff then resort to unacceptable methods to protect the elderly from harm. "It is significant that the Department of Health rushed through guidelines about what staff could and couldn't do concerning young people," Mr Smith said. "We need similar guidelines for elderly people."

He said that "a very wide

swath of nursing and residential homes" used some form of restraint, although no formal survey of its extent had been done. The problem was endemic to residential care, affecting private and local authority homes equally. "It is becoming more of an issue as the people admitted to residential care become more vulnerable," he said. The average age of residents was in the nineties and rising.

Good practice required high staffing levels, a high level of vigilance and care plans to be agreed with relatives spelling out acceptable risks, he said.

But there is a cost. At Compton Lodge, a home run by Hampstead Old People's Housing Trust, emphasis is placed on preserving residents' freedom and relatives are given guidance notes on safety. "We try to maintain high staffing, but our fees tend to be on the high side," Sue Martin, the manager, said. At £291 a week, the fees are £30 a week higher than other voluntary homes and at least £80 a week higher than income support levels.

What if they hurt themselves. Counsel and Care, Twyman House, 16 Bonny Street, London NW1 9PG; ES

Letters, page 15

Staff in dilemma over treatment

THE dilemma facing staff at homes for elderly people was underlined for a training officer with a care and counselling charity when she encountered a resident at a south London home (Jeremy Laurance writes).

"She was a woman in her seventies and she was tied to a chair with a bandage round her waist and another round her ankles. She had been there all morning and there was nothing in the room, not even a TV. She was rocking her chair trying to get out."

Elizabeth Rickaby, of Counsel and Care, was making the charity's annual visit to the home when she saw the woman in a second floor bedroom. "The staff explained that she was confused and liable to wander and they were afraid she might fall down the stairs. She was waiting for a ground floor room. But if she had rocked her chair over, that would have been even more dangerous. If she wanted to go to the loo, she had to bang on the floor. The home was short staffed and that is how they were coping."

Homes use a variety of

techniques to control their residents. Some are subtle, including overheating rooms to induce drowsiness. Others rely on repeat sedatives. In one home an elderly man was kept in his pyjamas to prevent him from leaving the building. Another installed video cameras to spy on residents — until an inspector from the local authority ordered their removal.

Sometimes relatives disagree about the degree of freedom that should be allowed. A social worker visiting her mother, who suffers from Alzheimer's disease, found her asleep, face down in her meal, after she was given drugs to stop her wandering. The front door was locked and she was hemmed in by heavy pine tables to prevent her from getting out of her chair.

The social worker complained that she would like staff to regard her mother's efforts to leave the room "as a sign that she would like to go for a walk". However, her father approved of the restraints because he feared that his wife would injure herself.

Smoking ban nurse resigned

BY KERRY GILL

A NURSE who smokes 30 cigarettes a day was driven "demented" after Greater Glasgow Health Board banned smoking at all its premises, an industrial tribunal was told yesterday.

May Dryden, aged 63, resorted to snatching an illicit puff in the hospital toilets after the ban began last July. On July 5, in spite of being urged by her superior to reconsider, she resigned.

Mrs Dryden, who said that she had tried acupuncture and hypnotherapy to give up, told the tribunal that she was constructively dismissed from her job at the city's Western Infirmary.

She said that she was "shunned and unbelieving" when she learned of the ruling, delivered as a message in her pay packet. She hoped that it would be forgotten. Previously smokers had been able to smoke in a section of the canteen or in a special room during a morning tea break. The new policy meant that she would have had to smoke in the street, something she never did, and, as she worked in the area, would have had no time to change her clothes.

The health board said that all interested parties were consulted and an overwhelming majority of those who responded agreed with the ban. The tribunal will give its decision later.

Circus chief had cocaine

Gerry Cottle, the circus head, was fined £500 by magistrates at Chertsey, Surrey, yesterday for possessing cocaine. The court was told that Cottle, aged 46, of Addlestone, Surrey, had 13.2 grammes hidden in his car when he was stopped by police last July.

Cottle said that he had started taking the drug to combat stress. Anthony Bridgen, his solicitor, said: "Mr Cottle is extremely embarrassed by what has happened. It will never happen again."

Cottle, who attended the same school in Wimbledon as John Major, started his circus career as a clown, still walker and fire-eater.

Gun threats

A man who threatened police with an air rifle and a pistol was overpowered by unarmed officers in Andover, Hampshire. No shots were fired but two officers were injured in the struggle.

Explosive alert

The A30 at Honiton, Devon, was sealed off after a van carrying about a ton of explosive crashed into a hedge and turned onto its side.

Ferret attack

Nikola Jackson, aged four months, of Stapleford, Nottinghamshire, was treated for cuts and bites to her face after being attacked in her pram by an escaped ferret.

Pigsty listed

A former pigsty at Zennor, Cornwall, has been declared a Grade II listed building.

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Defence debate told of Soviet dangers

King wields nuclear shield

BY PETER MULLIGAN AND JOHN WINDER

BRITAIN should keep up its nuclear guard because of the chaotic state of the armed forces in the former Soviet republics, Tom King, the defence secretary, said last night.

Mr King also used a Commons debate on defence to accuse Labour of "being split from top to bottom" on the issue of keeping nuclear weapons. He challenged Labour's defence policy as he painted a bleak picture of uncertainty over the control of nuclear weapons in the former Soviet Union. In a direct thrust at Neil Kinnock, Mr King said he "despised" those who pretended they were no longer CND members or who had allowed their membership to lapse.

In the former Soviet Union there was a "dangerously explosive mix" of factors and a sense of alienation and desperation among the armed forces. There were 3,000 nuclear scientists who could help other countries to develop weapons, and at least one group had not been paid in December. Control and responsibility for them appeared to have broken down. "The risk of proliferation in this way has never been greater," he said. "There was evidence that other countries were 'extremely active' in try-

ing to enlist the scientific services."

Earlier, at prime minister's questions, John Major said it



Kaufman: "Labour will take lead on defence"

would be imprudent for Britain to lift its nuclear shield. The end of the Soviet empire brought dangers as well as opportunities, Mr Major said, "and we have to be prepared for both."

Mr King said the newly independent Soviet states faced a virtual collapse in conscription. Conscripts who were unsure whether they would be paid, fed or housed. About 400,000 troops were "living either in tents or in corners of barracks rooms".

Disputes between the republics over the custody of nuclear weapons continued, while links had been cut between certain military units and their headquarters. Tactical nuclear weapons were located in 13 of the former republics. Although efforts had been made to move these to Russia by July, some were under the control of elements whose morale was "extremely dubious".

Mr King said that even if promises to reduce weapons over the next ten years were made, "the republics would still have 20 times more warheads than Britain. The West could not guarantee success in its efforts for a smooth transition. 'To be blunt, we do not have a single idea who might be in control in ten years. We do not even have a good idea or any confidence who might be in control in ten weeks from now.'"

Mr King taunted Labour over its changes on defence policy and said that 16 out of 22 of the shadow cabinet had anti-nuclear backgrounds.

Gerald Kaufman, the shadow foreign secretary, said that Mr King had stood

on his head on nuclear matters and turned a public somersault. "This is a government which not only changes its mind on what it regards as basic nuclear defence issues but does not even understand what to do with the nuclear weapons it possesses or seeks to retain. This government cannot be relied on to take the lead in international nuclear arms control discussions, but the Labour government soon to be elected will certainly take that lead."

The nuclear non-proliferation treaty must be extended and the former Soviet republics persuaded to sign it. "Any nation that refuses to sign must not be allowed to buy any nuclear materials at all, even if they are for peacefully peaceful purposes," Mr Kaufman said.

The government was bereft of ideas on the problems, and was nostalgic for the Cold War, and could only mouth its slogans, he said. "Whenever the Tories know that they are facing electoral defeat, they head first into the political sewer."

Gorbachev role, page 7



Labour refuses to turn back the clock for unions

BY NICHOLAS WOOD, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

A LABOUR government would not reinstate the trade union immunities and privileges of the 1970s, the leadership pledged yesterday as it braced itself for the another wave in the Conservative pre-election campaign.

Tony Blair, the shadow employment secretary, mounted a pre-emptive strike against the planned Tory onslaught by portraying ministers as relics of a bygone age, constantly fighting old battles.

In a forceful statement of Labour's revised stance on industrial relations, which risked alienating left-wing union leaders, Mr Blair said: "No doubt over the coming weeks, after the nonsense on tax and defence, our political opponents will next say Labour will return to the industrial relations law of the Seventies. That is false. There is no turning the clock back: there will be no wholesale repeal of the existing trade union legislation."

"For example, ballots for union

elections, restrictions on mass picketing, will stay. Like companies, unions will be subject to proper legal regulation. Like companies, they will be entitled to fairness within the law, not favours outside it."

"But there can be no group of people outside the cabinet that truly believe that the future of Britain in the Nineties will be seriously decided by re-running the debates of the Seventies," Mr Blair told a conference in London.

Tory election strategists are planning to turn their fire on Labour's trade union proposals the week after next, after a renewed assault on the Opposition's public spending plans. Ministers will argue that Labour and the unions are "thick as thieves", pointing out that 90 per cent of the votes at the party's conferences are cast by the unions and that three-quarters of its money comes from union sources. They will also highlight the fact that most of the shadow cabinet are sponsored by unions.



Dumping at sea to end

The Ministry of Defence is to stop dumping redundant ammunition and explosives at sea from next January, Kenneth Clarke, the under secretary for defence resources, said in a written reply.

The change is in line with the government's general policy, as agreed internationally, that waste should be disposed of on land where this is safe and practicable.

Woman tipped for top job

Ladbroke, the bookmaker, has made Betty Boothroyd, a deputy speaker, favourite to succeed Bernard Weatherill as Speaker after the election, when Mr Weatherill retires. They are offering odds of 2-1 on for Miss Boothroyd, 6-1 against Dame Janet Fookes, and 10-1 against Paul Channon, Harold Walker, the deputy speaker, is also offered at 10-1.

Part-timers

Twenty five per cent of the British workforce—6,491,000 people—were working part-time last June, the latest date for which figures are available. Michael Howard, the employment secretary, said at question time.

On tour

An estimated 18.3 million overseas visitors are expected in the United Kingdom this year, spending around £8 billion, Eric Forth, the junior employment minister, told MPs at question time.

Parliament today

Commons (2.30): Questions: Trade and industry. Coal industry bill, remaining stages. Motions on stamp duty. Lords (2.30): Debates on the construction industry and Channel tunnel rail links in the Southeast.

Boost in voluntary sector pledged

BY PHILIP WEBSTER, CHIEF POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

LABOUR would appoint a minister to co-ordinate the activities of the voluntary sector across Whitehall, David Blunkett, the shadow local government minister, promised yesterday.

He said a Labour government would provide an immediate role for voluntary organisations in its employment, training and other economic policies.

Mr Blunkett was "seeing out Labour's approach to the voluntary sector in a new document, *Building Bridges*, which follows a two-year consultation exercise across Britain. The document describes the voluntary sector as being at the heart of Labour's belief in citizenship and giving power to the community. It says the party expects and welcomes a greater role for the voluntary sector in shaping the society of the future. "But this role brings with it responsibilities—especially where it is linked to the extension of grant aid from central or local government."

"The task of repairing the damage wrought over 13 years cannot be repaired quickly, and some of our commitments may take at least the lifetime of a Parliament."

Mr Blunkett said the dominant theme of Labour's approach was involving service users as much as possible in the delivery of services. "This contrasts sharply with the Citizen's Charter."



Blunkett: shaping the society of the future

If you need to ask, can you afford it?

BY PHILIP WEBSTER

THE average cost of answering each of the 32,000 questions tabled by MPs to ministers last year was £50, the Commons was told last night. The cost to the taxpayer was some £1.6 million.

The Treasury said the maximum limit for answering a question was going up to £400, eight times higher than the average. Some cost a lot less, and some considerably more.

If civil servants consider the £400 limit is going to be exceeded they are required to refer the matter to ministers who can refuse to answer on the grounds of disproportionate cost.

The average cost of an-

swering questions has gone up, since 1988, from £33. Since then the maximum spending limit on satisfying the curiosity of MPs has been £250.

A recent league table—supplied of course in a written answer—showed Paul Flynn, the Labour MP for Newport West, as the most prolific recipient of answers, with 928 received.

Mr Flynn was followed by Martin Redmond, Labour MP for Don Valley, with 646; Frank Dobson, the shadow energy secretary, with 593; Rhodri Morgan, Labour MP for Cardiff West with 560; and Harry Cohen, MP for Leyton, with 527.

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You've worked long and hard to build your family's financial security, don't let an unexpected stay in the hospital destroy the security you've worked years to achieve.

At the time of an illness or injury, whether serious or not, your immediate concern should be your treatment and recovery.

The last thing you should worry about is money. Yet, even though the National Health Service covers your health care costs in full, there are many other expenses to consider—the costs of everyday living, such as your mortgage or rent, household expenses, and food and clothing for your family. All too often, a lifetime of savings is swept away by a major or prolonged illness—a family home remortgaged as a result of unexpected hospital stay. What if it should happen to you?

NOW YOU CAN COLLECT CASH BENEFITS OF UP TO £100.00 A DAY, £700.00 A WEEK, £3,000.00 A MONTH, £36,500.00 TOTAL

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THE HOSPITAL CASH PLAN PAYS YOU BENEFIT AFTER CASH BENEFIT AT LOW MONTHLY RATES!

This is an excellent, inexpensive plan providing outstanding benefits at affordable low rates. The monthly rate for the valuable Standard Plan protection starts as low as £4.95 for a person under the age of 40, as little as £1.00 per week! Look at the figures to the right to determine exactly how much your cover will cost. You'll see that your rate depends on your current age, but once you're enrolled, your low rate is guaranteed to never increase for reasons of age, health or benefits paid.

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- Option 1 pays you extra cash, £50.00 a day increased benefit when hospitalised for Cancer. You'll collect up to £150.00 a Day!
- Option 2 pays you extra cash, £50.00 a day increased benefit when hospitalised for a Heart Attack or Stroke. That's up to £150.00 a Day!
- Option 3 pays you extra cash, £150.00 a day increased benefit when hospitalised in Intensive Care. That's up to £250.00 a Day!
- Option 4 pays you cash, £25.00 a day in Nursing Home Care benefits. That's £25.00 a Day in cash benefits paid directly to you!

These options are available to you for as little as £1.50 a month—and can raise your total benefit up to £73,000.00.

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RECOMMENDED PLAN EXECUTIVE PLAN £450.00/DAY, £1350.00/WEEK, £13,500.00/MONTH			
MONTHLY RATES			
AGE LAST BIRTHDAY	INDIVIDUAL ONLY	INDIVIDUAL & SPOUSE	INDIVIDUAL & FAMILY
Under 40	£8.90	£14.90	£22.00
40-49	£12.00	£22.00	£30.00
50-59	£18.00	£32.00	£44.00
60-69	£28.00	£48.00	N/A
70-74	£47.00	£79.00	N/A

OPTIONAL PLAN STANDARD PLAN £45.00/DAY, £135.00/WEEK, £1,350.00/MONTH			
MONTHLY RATES			
AGE LAST BIRTHDAY	INDIVIDUAL ONLY	INDIVIDUAL & SPOUSE	INDIVIDUAL & FAMILY
Under 40	£4.95	£7.95	£11.50
40-49	£6.50	£11.50	£15.50
50-59	£9.50	£16.50	£22.50
60-69	£14.50	£24.50	N/A
70-74	£24.00	£40.00	N/A

EASY TO GET AND EASY TO PAY FOR TOO—PAY DIRECTLY, CHARGE IT OR USE DIRECT DEBIT!

Applying for your protection is as easy as completing and posting the Enrolment Form. Your premium can be automatically billed to your Visa, Access or MasterCard statement. What could be simpler or easier for you? You never have to worry about missing due dates or writing cheques. That's convenience! Of course, you can pay directly or by direct debit. The choice is yours.

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Post your Enrolment Form today. The policy you receive is yours to examine for 30 full days FREE. As soon as we receive your Enrolment Form, we'll rush your policy to you. Look it over carefully. Show it to a trusted advisor... compare it with any other plan. We believe you won't be disappointed. Yet, if for any reason, you're dissatisfied, return the policy within 30 days and we will promptly credit your account with the entire premium paid. You have our word on it.



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ADDRESS Street Town
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DATE OF BIRTH / /

TICK HERE FOR COVER REQUIRED
☐ EXECUTIVE PLAN ☐ COVER FOR MYSELF
☐ STANDARD PLAN ☐ COVER FOR MYSELF & SPOUSE
☐ ☐ COVER FOR MYSELF & FAMILY

List the name(s) of all other family members to be covered. Use separate paper if additional space is needed.

	SURNAME	FORENAME(S)	BIRTHDATE
SPOUSE			
CHILDREN (Unmarried dependants to age 22)			

I prefer to pay for this cover (tick one):
☐ directly, enclosed is a cheque for the first 3 months.
☐ by continuous Credit Card Authorisation.
My Visa/Mastercard Card No. Expiry date
☐ by direct monthly debit from my bank account.

Direct Debit Mandate

Name and Address of Bank Branch
Name
Address
Town
County Postcode

Name of Account to be Debited
Bank Account No. Bank Sorting Code

ORIGINATORS IDENTIFICATION No. 835640

I/We authorise you until further notice in writing to charge my/our account with unspecified amounts which may be debited thereto at the instance of Wessex Insurance Company Limited by Direct Debit, in respect of my/our payments for the Hospital Cash policy. Banks may decline or accept instruction to charge Direct Debits to certain types of accounts other than current accounts.

SIGNATURE DATE

Underwritten by Wessex Insurance Company Ltd., a wholly owned subsidiary of AFLAC Ltd. PLEASE POST BEFORE 2ND FEBRUARY 1992 TO: AFLAC, FREEPOST, WINCHESTER, HANTS SO23 8BZ.

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Figure 1. The effect of the concentration of the polymer solution on the surface free energy of the polymer film. The surface free energy of the polymer film decreased with increasing the concentration of the polymer solution.

Rape within marriage remained a very small portion of complaints. Most cases have involved couples living apart and allegations of rape involving a cohabiting couple were very difficult to investigate. But, she said, the number of reported cases might increase as women grow more confident that the police

In southwest London the units have pioneered a system of cautioning husbands or partners for minor offences rather than launching court action. Research suggests that an arrest can be very effective in deterring a husband from more assaults.



Long-distance run for Kim's postbag

The Japanese prime minister, Kijichi Miyazawa, concerned about the quality of life in his

It gave Mr Keating a 25 per cent approval rating, 1 per cent below the lowest level ever recorded for Bob Hawke, who was removed as prime minister on December 19 after Labor party politicians voted in favour of Mr Keating. "Many people commented on their disapproval of Mr Keating — he is not the right person, an arrogant man, no faith in him — and many simply said 'don't like him'," said the Roy Morgan Gallup poll report.

There are 3- or 5-door models



manual or automatic, with or without catalytic converters. Or you can

What do you get for \$7350?

With the 3-door 205 Style you get unique Style badging, rear wash-wipe and digital radio/cassette as standard. Not forgetting the tilting glass sunroof, as if the sun didn't shine on you already.

The 205 Style comes in a range of colours: Alpine White, Cherry Red, Silver and Steel Grey.

So call into your local Peugeot dealer and take a closer look at the 205 range. You had better hurry, as not everyone needs an incentive to buy a Peugeot 205.

205 STYLE THREE DOOR FINANCE EXAMPLES		
	10% DEPOSIT	0% A/P
ON-THE-ROAD PRICE**	\$7825	\$7825
LOAN PERIOD	48 Months	12 Months
FLAT RATE A/P %	7.0% 15.5%	0.0%
DEPOSIT	\$782.50	\$0.00
MONTHLY PAYMENT	\$16.19 \$19.19	\$632.00
FINANCE CHARGES	\$792.00	\$0.00
TOTAL PAYABLE	\$10,066.00	\$7825

*ADDITIONAL ON-THE-ROAD COSTS ESTIMATED AT \$475 FOR 12 MONTHS' ROAD TAX. DELIVERY TO DEALERSHIP AND NUMBER TIES \$4000; ESTIMATED ON THE ROAD COSTS OF \$475 FOR 12 MONTHS' ROAD TAX, DELIVERY IN dealership and number plate. **Street quotes available on request from our local Peugeot dealer. Offer subject to status (over 18 only). A guarantor may be required. 10% Deposit. 2.95-2.54% Administration Fee payable with first instalment. Metallic paint extra.

choose from our range of diesels, (which includes the highly-acclaimed Turbo Diesels) or even the legendary high-performance 205 GTis.

Museum profits from art

BY DAVID ACHESON

The Hermitage directors believe their reproductions are virtually identical to the originals. ART UK, a north London company, uses what it calls the Artagraph process, developed at a cost of £7 million, to copy oil paintings by laser optical scanning and special printing techniques that can simulate even the shape of the oil paint on the canvases.

Pretoria enters Aids table

Pretoria: South Africa has become the fifteenth African country to report more than 1,000 cases of Aids, with 1,011 people infected since 1982, the health department said. More people were infected through heterosexual than homosexual sex. (AFP)

Crime gap

Peking: People under 25 are responsible for 75 per cent of all crimes in China and the average age of first offenders has fallen to just 14, the weekly *Peking Review* magazine has reported. (Reuters)

Love blast

Davao: A Philippine teenager was so enraged on seeing his girlfriend in a cinema with another man that he exploded a hand grenade, killing himself and his rival. (Reuter)

Pet creepy

Sydney: Seeking the ideal pet? One that doesn't bark or stain the carpet? Then look no further than the cockroach. An entomologist here has discovered a lucrative market—he sells mating pairs of giant burrowing cockroaches for \$26. He has sold 180 pairs in 18 months. (Reuters)

Knitters aid Delhi slum dwellers

FROM CHRISTOPHER THOMAS IN DELHI

VASANTHA Chandra has never heard of the Women's Institute. She was glad of the bright-colored sweater that came from far away. She said it might save the life of her undernourished daughter-Nitya, aged six weeks, who is desperately thin.

Mrs Chandra is one of thousands of Delhi slum dwellers who have received sweaters knitted by members of the Women's Institute in response to an appeal that appeared in August's issue of *Home and Country*, the Women's Institute magazine. Instead of the thousand sweaters the organisers expected, 11,000 sweaters were made, nearly 9,000 of which have already been distributed. They followed the simple pattern dubbed the *ihari* rumor.

The *jhuggi* jumper scheme was instigated by the sewing group of the Delhi Commonwealth Women's Association, a welfare organisation. Morwenna Goodall, wife of Sir David Goodall, the retired British high commissioner, got her home village of Ampoleforth in Yorkshire to knit sweaters. They made 101; the Women's Institute was then approached and the scheme spread throughout Britain. British Airways offered to fly the sweaters to India, free of charge.

Varada Menon, a member of the women's association, said the slum-dwellers were overwhelmed by the gifts. "They are touched to think that people who live thousands of miles away would do this for them."

Jhuggi jumper. The **Jhuggi** dwellers of Mori Gate slum in north Delhi, where 100 Tamil-speaking families live, survive as balloon-sellers, sweepers and coolies. Most families earn less than 50p a day. Mrs Chandra, aged 22, has received one sweater for each of her five children and says the winter will not be so hard now. "It is very cold at night. My baby is sick because we can't keep her warm."

Her tiny **Jhuggi** has open windows: in December the rain leaked through it and she woke her children when they slept in the same thin clothes they wear all day. Many people die each year in the Delhi winter.



**Vasantha Chandran
and baby Nitva**

IT'S NEVER BEEN EASIER TO BUY A PEUGEOT 205

ALL FIGURES CORRECT AT TIME OF GOING TO PRESS AND SUBJECT TO AVAILABILITY PSA FINANCIAL FILE LICENSED THROUGH BROKER/ST. VICTORIA HOUSE, 50 CECILIA AVENUE, LONDON WC1A 3QD. ALL OFFERS APPLY TO BEN 305 DAYS REGISTRATION BETWEEN 12.01.01 AND 31.12.01. BY CHOICE OF ITS LISTING, THE FIRST SALE IS MADE IN 100 LOTS WITH THE REMAINING OFFERING IN 10 LOTS.

UN peacekeepers arrive to start Croatia mission

FROM ANNE McELVOY IN ZAGREB AND TIM JUDAH IN BELGRADE

THE first batch of United Nations peacekeepers arrived in Zagreb and Belgrade yesterday paving the way for a full intervention force of some 10,000 "blue berets" in the Yugoslav conflict.

The 50 UN officers, who are from 18 countries including Britain, are led by Colonel John Wilson from Australia. They are unarmed and will be stationed in the two capitals and at 11 trouble spots throughout Croatia, where they will attempt to strengthen the present ceasefire by installing communications equipment linking the Croatian and the federal army.

They will also liaise between the two sides to prevent minor incidents escalating into full-scale breaches of the

fragile peace. One Croatian was killed and another wounded on Monday night after exchange of fire near the Adriatic port of Šibenik but other fronts remained quiet.

Colonel Wilson said that he would spend the next days meeting senior officers of the federal army and that groups of UN officers would disperse today throughout Croatia and Bosnia-Herzegovina. The latter has yet to be drawn into the conflict, but Bosnia's deputy interior minister, Vukmir Zepinac, said yesterday that its tense ethnic mix of Muslims, Croats and Serbs made it "one big crisis point".

Two groups of 12 observers arrived in Zagreb from Vienna yesterday afternoon flying the UN flag and wearing

their distinctive hats. All have experience in previous UN peacekeeping operations and have been drafted into Yugoslavia from Kuwait and Angola. One officer, Major Abdul Hafiz from Bangladesh, said: "Our mission here is to make use of the UN's good offices to maintain the ceasefire and, if it so happens that it is broken, to try to restore the status quo."

The advance party of 50 will not venture into frontline areas although later groups of armed peacekeepers are scheduled to enter the regions where fighting has been fiercest. The two sides now have basic communication channels for the first time since the conflict began last June. Representatives of the federal army and Croatian army commanders met in the Hungarian town of Pécs at the weekend and have agreed on further weekly meetings in a neutral place.

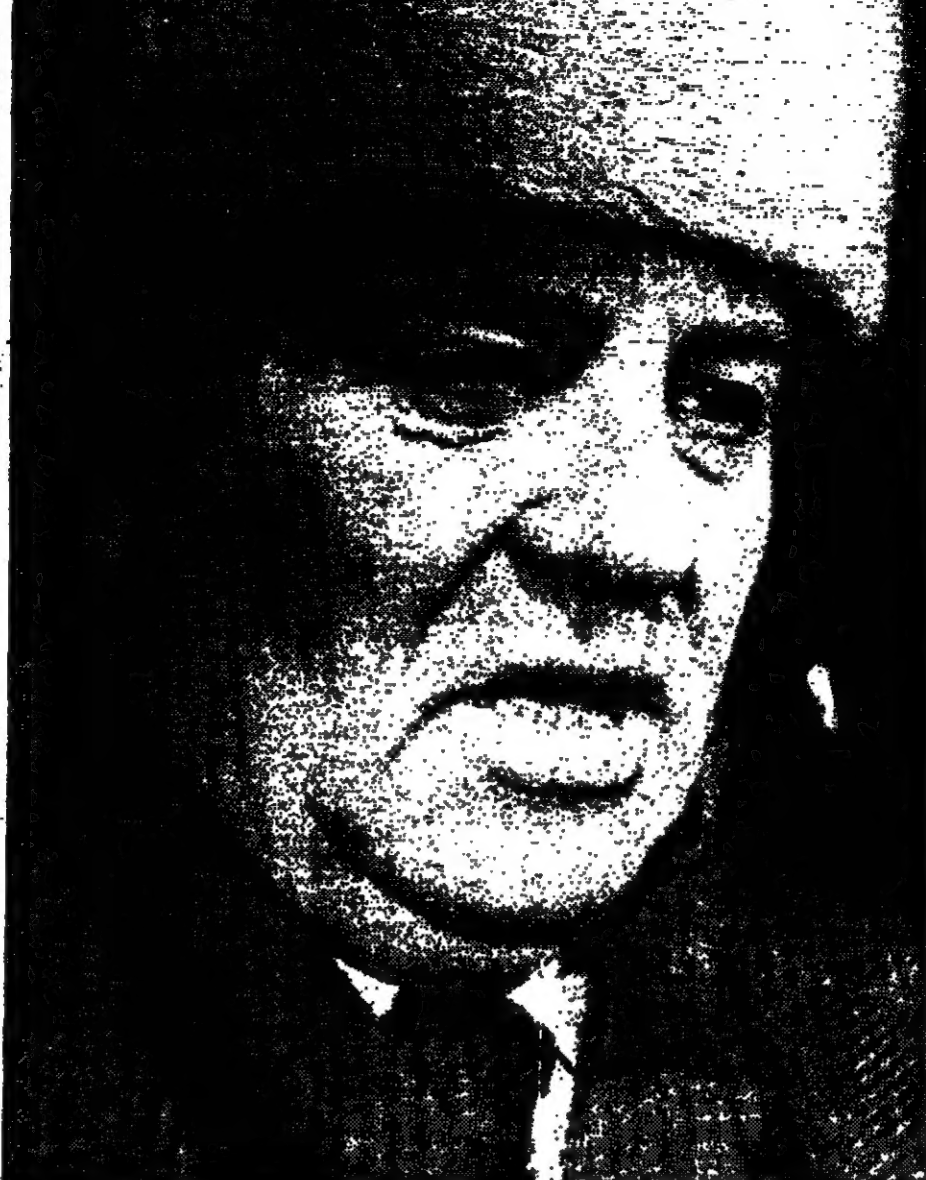
The UN has made clear that it will only begin to draft in the full complement of troops once a universal and stable ceasefire has been reached. But some Serb leaders in Croatian enclaves are unwilling to disarm their militias and regard the decision of the Serbian leader, Slobodan Milošević, to agree to a UN deployment as a betrayal of their cause. The extremist leader of the Krajina region, Milan Babić, is now confronting Mr Milošević and threatening that their feud could end in bloodshed.

Croatia and Serbia both agreed to bring in the UN but have different expectations. Serbia believes that the stationing of troops inside Croatia effectively confirms its territorial gains there by taking the regions it has conquered out of Zagreb's control.

But Franjo Tudjman, Croatia's leader, said yesterday that he expected the presence of a peacekeeping force to help his country regain the territory it had lost to the Serb-led federal army. He pledged that unless the lost areas were regained "the Croatian people... will save the entire land", implying that the war could go on.

On the eve of the deadline for EC recognition of individual Yugoslav republics, Constantine Mitsotakis, the Greek prime minister, has made an 11-hour trip to Belgrade, Bonn and Rome in an attempt to prevent the recognition of Macedonia. Greece believes that the name Macedonia should be used only to refer to the region of Macedonia in the north of the country. It insists that it will only recognise the Yugoslav republic of the same name if it renames itself and has suggested the "Skopje Republic" as a suitable compromise. Athens fears that independence for Macedonia could spark off secessionism among Macedonians in Greece.

In another development, the federal army has announced that soldiers from western Serbia are to replace units of Montenegrins who have been besieging the Croatian port of Dubrovnik for two and a half months. Last week, Montenegrins, which along with Serbs had been singled out for EC sanctions, was exempted and there was speculation that the small republic, formally a staunch ally of Serbia, had pushed the federal army to withdraw its troops as it tries to distance itself from Belgrade.



Fresh start: Mikhail Gorbachev arriving yesterday for his first day as head of his Moscow foundation for social, economic and political research

Gorbachev's new role with think-tank

Former leader is back

FROM BRIAN KILLEN IN MOSCOW

MIKHAIL Gorbachev, three weeks after being forced to resign as president of the now disbanded Soviet Union, returned to work yesterday as head of a Moscow-based think-tank.

Looking subdued but relaxed, Mr Gorbachev arrived at his International Foundation for Social, Economic and Political Research for talks with Henry Kissinger, the American former Secretary of State. After his resignation last month, the former president said, he took a holiday, his full break from work in six years.

The think-tank, once headed by "the father of glasnost" Alexander Yakovlev, is now better known as the "Gorbachev foundation". The former Soviet leader will continue to work with Mr Yakovlev and other associates who helped him during almost seven years in office to transform his nation and world politics.

Mr Gorbachev said that he agreed with recent criticism of economic reforms being implemented by his old political rival, Boris Yeltsin, the Russian president. But he added that he believed the radical reforms, including price liberalisation, needed time to work. "There is no need to hurry because it is a crucial, very difficult stage... It is too early to draw conclusions," he said. Mr Gorbachev said that another ten days or so were needed to assess the impact on the nation of lifting price controls.

He made no comment on the Commonwealth of Independent States, which he opposed before bowing to the will of the 11 republics that created it to replace the Soviet Union.

The former Soviet leader, who at the age of 60 appears to be heading for a career as an elder statesman, said after his resignation that he had no intention of abandoning politics. He has been offered posts at several American universities, but has declined those and other offers in Europe, preferring to take charge of the foundation that bears his name. The foundation will generate ideas and give advice on social, economic and political issues.

The independent Interfax news agency quoted Mr Gorbachev as saying that the situation in the country was serious and required corrective measures. He said that it was necessary to establish co-operation between republics, introduce tax policies that would stimulate production and deal immediately with economic monopolies.

Mr Gorbachev added that he wished President Yeltsin would work for greater co-operation among the commonwealth republics. Interfax reported, "I do not think anyone can match the role the Russian president plays in this field," he said. (Reuters)

● Nuclear assurance: Douglas Hurd, the foreign secretary, said yesterday that he had received assurances that the control of the former Soviet Union's nuclear arsenal remained in Russian hands (Sheila Gunn writes).

There was much confusion in the republics, he told the Commons foreign affairs committee, but he saw no reason to doubt those assurances. However, David Howell, the chairman, said that it had evidence of proliferation in the nuclear capability of smaller countries.

Parliament, page 5

Amnesty demands torture embargo

A BAN on British companies exporting equipment that could be used for torture and executions has been called for by Amnesty International (David Young writes).

Amnesty is also calling for an end to the secrecy that surrounds training provided by British forces and is demanding safeguards that training provided by the United Kingdom does not include instruction in techniques that will lead to human rights violations.

In a report, *Repression Trade UK Ltd*, Amnesty says that over the past ten years legions, an electronic torture chamber dubbed "House of Pain" and gallows have been exported by British firms.

The report also says that at a recent arms exhibition in Britain a weapon being offered for sale to overseas customers was described in sales literature as being capable of making "human hamburgers out of occupants in a room, car or other enclosed area".

Allegations that two Cambodian armed opposition groups have been trained by British forces, reportedly the SAS, in sabotage and mining techniques that have resulted in about 300 civilians a month losing limbs and an unknown number of deaths have also been made.

Minister quits

Madrid: Julian Garcia Valverde, the Spanish health minister, has resigned after allegations of financial irregularities during his time as chairman of the state railway company, Renfe. He denies any wrongdoing.

Li to visit UN

Peking: Li Peng, the Chinese prime minister, is to attend the United Nations Security Council summit in New York on January 31, and visit several European capitals, diplomats said. (Reuters)

Gandhi refusal

Delhi: Attempts to revive the Gandhi political dynasty, after the assassination last year of Rajiv Gandhi, were dashed when his daughter, Priyanka, rejected becoming a Congress (I) party committee member in Uttar Pradesh.

Kohl ally wins

Strasbourg: Egon Klepsch, a German Christian Democrat, was elected president of the European parliament. Herr Klepsch, an ally of Helmut Kohl, the German chancellor, defeated three others for the post. (AP)

Buying spree

Islamabad: Mian Nawaz Sharif, the Pakistani prime minister, has left for France, where he is expected to try to buy a nuclear power plant and 44 Mirage jet fighters. America stopped military sales in 1990. (AP)

Gibraltar test

Gibraltar: The general election here tomorrow will test the economic plan of Joe Bossano, the chief minister and Socialist Labour party leader. The policy is designed to make the Rock self-sufficient.

Rat supreme

Toulouse: When the children of Toulouse sit down to school dinner, their meal may be spiced with a whiff of dead rat. A survey of state schools found dead rodents, spiders webs yards high and bridges of rotting food. (Reuters)



Yugoslav conflict 'uproots million'

FROM TIM JUDAH IN BELGRADE

A MILLION people have been displaced by the war in Yugoslavia, according to Judith Kurmin, chief of mission for the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees in Belgrade.

That figure means that the conflict in Croatia has caused the greatest movement of refugees and displaced people in Europe since the second world war. About 600,000 people have been registered as refugees in Yugoslavia since the beginning of the war last summer. They registered when they needed help," Mrs Kurmin said, "but we believe that this figure should be 10 per cent to 20 per cent higher because thousands have not registered."

"You must also include tens of thousands of young men who have fled the draft, refugees now abroad, and those people who have gone to stay with families and friends working abroad. This gives us at least one million who have been forced to move because of the war."

Technically, the agency does not call the 600,000 people registered in Yugoslavia "refugees" because they are still within their country of origin — they are "displaced persons".

Thousands have registered as refugees in Austria, Germany and Italy, but the greatest number are in Hungary. There, 25,000 people have registered, but the Hungarian government estimates that as many as 45,000 have fled across Croatia's north-eastern border. The figures for displaced people are in-

creased further. 25,000 Serbian refugees in Croatia's Serb enclave of Krajina and the families of 26,000 Yugoslav army officers who are being withdrawn from Croatia and Slovenia are added.

So far, Yugoslavia's republican Red Cross societies have been able to cope. Local people have given generously and opened their homes, but help has also come from the agency, the International Committee of the Red Cross, and Serb and Croat emigrant communities.

Over half the refugees are Croats who have been forced to flee their homes and are still in Croatia, but the rest are mainly Serbs who have sought refuge in Serbia and Bosnia-Herzegovina. In Croatia, half the refugees have been housed with families; the rest have been put up in hotels and communal centres. In Bosnia-Herzegovina and Serbia, most refugees have been put up privately.

Mirjana Milanovic, an organiser at a refugee centre outside Belgrade, said: "Most people who opened their homes to refugees thought it would be for a short time. Several months later, many of these host families cannot cope any more and, despite the subsidies they get, they cannot afford it either, so we are getting people back here, whom we thought we had already settled."

Under the terms of the peace accord, all refugees are supposed to go home but with no political settlement, most will not move until their future is secure.

But Franjo Tudjman, Croatia's leader, said yesterday that he expected the presence of a peacekeeping force to help his country regain the territory it had lost to the Serb-led federal army. He pledged that unless the lost areas were regained "the Croatian people... will save the entire land", implying that the war could go on.

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Traitor Blake to help KGB heirs sell their new image

FROM MARY DEJEVSKY IN MOSCOW

GEORGE Blake, who spent for the Soviet Union for ten years and has lived in Moscow since his dramatic escape from Wormwood Scrubs prison in 1966, is to speak at a press conference in Moscow today to launch the Russian edition of his autobiography.

Blake, who is now 68, has given a few interviews to the Western media in recent years, but remained for the most part in the shadows and several reports have said that he suffers from depression.

The decision to put Blake "on show" for the benefit of the media seems to be part of a campaign by the former foreign intelligence branch of the KGB — now reorganised as the Russian foreign intelligence service — to project an impression of enlightened openness. Last week, the service's press officer produced Oleg Nechiporenko, a retired KGB operative, to relate his largely abortive attempts to interview American prisoners of war in Vietnam in the 1970s.

It is not clear where the initiative for the foreign intelligence service's new image comes from. It could come from the service itself, which may feel under pressure to demonstrate its worth or exhibit a new style. Equally, it could come from the service's new Russian masters, wanting to demonstrate to the world that they are breaking with the past.

A third possibility is that it comes from within the former

KGB, which experienced a double loss of dignity with the dissolution of the Soviet Union. A decree issued by Boris Yeltsin, the Russian president, on December 19 announced not only that the Soviet KGB was being sub-



Blake: Moscow launch of his autobiography

sumed into the much smaller Russian Federation KGB, but that the KGB and the interior ministry of the Soviet Union and the Russian Federation were being merged to form one super-ministry to fight crime. The foreign intelligence branch was hived off, but its staff has undergone almost no changes and the KGB roots remain.

Mr Yeltsin's move to merge the KGB and interior ministry has placed the whole existence and ethos of the KGB under threat and has aroused a wave of opposition, much of it orchestrated. The staff of the two institutions are fight-

ing the merger by various means. For the benefit of public opinion, they have raised the spectre of the NKVD, which conducted Stalin's purges and was founded from a similar merger in 1934. They are also fighting the move on constitutional grounds.

A group of parliamentary deputies has taken the matter to Russia's newly established constitutional court, arguing that in merging the two institutions Mr Yeltsin exceeded his presidential authority. The hearing — the first ever before the court — opened yesterday and one of the undertones was fear on the part of the heirs of the KGB that their special status and traditions would vanish without trace.

At a time when the KGB in all its manifestations is fighting for its very existence, boasting of past successes or coming clean about others might be thought politically prudent. Whether it can, or should, be given any more credence than before, however, even in its new guise, is doubted by at least one former senior KGB officer. Oleg Kalugin, a former head of Soviet counter-intelligence, who defected to the democratic camp 18 months ago, yesterday stood by his allegations that the KGB had interrogated American prisoners of war in Vietnam and accused "remnants of the KGB" of mounting an elaborate cover-up.

YUGOSLAVIA NOTEBOOK by Anne McElvoy

Del Boy jokes cut across divisions of war

AFTER six months at war, Zagreb's Intercontinental hotel has crossed out Serbian cream soup and fish salad Sava (named after the Serbian patron saint) from its menu. The dishes will be renamed along "Croatian lines" once the Yugoslav republic's independent credentials are established, which the *maître d'hôtel* assumes will be the case.

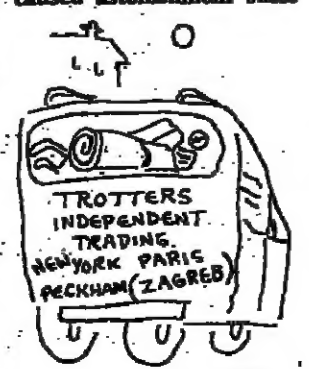
Little unites Serbs and Croats today. The only exception that transcends the conflict is their enthusiasm for British humour. *Only Fools and Horses* and *Allo! Allo!* are the current hits here. The latter, a spoof on the French resistance set during the second world war, is very popular. Nenad Tokić, a television columnist in Zagreb, said: According to

him, it is typical given the war and the perceived incompetence of Croatia's intelligence services. He added that Del Boy, the main character of *Only Fools and Horses*, is so well known that the name is now widely used in Croatia "as a term of affection for stupid people".

Across the border, Del Boy, my Belgrade interpreter, shares the affection for the programme and swears that it is a valuable aid to his English vocabulary, which now includes the phrases "lovely-jubbly" and "pillock". Perhaps, that is a sign that there is hope of reconciliation after all for the warring sides.

Injective is an integral aspect of the Balkan cultural diet, but the authors of the "Stop the war in Croatia"

leaflet, aimed at awakening the dormant sensibilities of the uncaring West, has caused astonishment since



it appeared in public buildings and hotel lobbies at the beginning of the year.

Resonant with Shakespearean ire, it claims that the land is under siege by

"alligators, werewolves and snakes hell poisonous" and concludes with a grim if unlikely warning: "Oh, Europe and America, until it is too late even for you they are coming, these hyenas and rabid rats."

"They are coming and will eat up Croatia and the Balkans, they will eat up even you with your cold and uninterested looks, or are you gentlemen conducting some experiment with Croatia? How long will Serbo-communists and Chetnik animals massacre my dear mother homeland Croatia?"

Fairness dictates that this assessment be balanced by war-wisdoms from the Serbian camp, collected by Belgrade's *Vreme* magazine. "Democracy is the word which has been infiltrated

from the outside to cause new divisions between the Serbs even more tragic than previous ones", is a saying credited to Rastislav Petrovic, a historian.

Danilo Markovic, the Serbian education minister who advocates Cyrillic as the official language in Yugoslavia, is quoted as saying: "Cyrillic is nicer and more practical for computers than the Latin alphabet."

Dragutin Zelenovic, the former prime minister, said: "Foreign investors from all over the world have been to see me and offered to invest in the Serbian economy, so there should be no problems." Dismissing claims that high unemployment and inflation at 250 per cent meant that the country was facing economic difficulties.

Gascons ring the changes

FROM PHILIP JACOBSON IN PARIS

THE affair of the bells of Laas began a few years ago when a violent storm wrecked the ancient church tower in this tiny farming village deep in the heart of Gascony. With the enthusiastic support of its 30 or so permanent residents, it raised the money to replace the lost bells with some advanced electronic circuitry that preserved the sound of the peals without requiring the services of traditional bell-ringers.

The villagers were delighted, but not Christian Monnoyeur, owner of the chateau that stands within earshot of the restored church tower. Arriving from Paris for a restful long weekend in the country, he was greeted by the sound of the new bells ringing out every half hour and hour, plus a three-daily session for the angels.

Enough was enough and after M Monnoyeur paid a

visit to the mayor, Maurice Cuillas, a civilised agreement was reached under which the bells would fall silent between the hours of 10pm and 7am. This, however, did not endure for long and M Monnoyeur decided upon reflection that he could settle for nothing less than a total prohibition, the angels excepted. So he took legal action to achieve that.

But as the rest of France well knows, it is unwise to push the fiery Gascons too far: the blood of D'Aragnan still courses through their veins. The municipal council promptly dug in its heels against what indignant locals perceived as an attempt by this well-heeled outsider to lord it over them. "People here like to hear their bells, it lives things up in such a peaceful little corner of the world," M Cuillas told the newspaper *La Dépêche du Midi*. There could be no

question of silencing the bells totally just to please M Monnoyeur, the mayor added, especially since they were really no more clamorous nowadays than before. "We are still prepared to make further efforts, perhaps reducing the time that they ring during the day. But demanding complete silence — that was asking too much!"

M Monnoyeur's next move was to seek a order from the administrative tribunal in nearby Pau banning all but the angelus bells, in pursuit of which he engaged two Parisian lawyers to prepare the ground. It goes without saying that such a turn of events was not kindly received in Laas, where lawyers can expect a cool reception. The villagers are more determined than ever to fight on, awaiting the final court ruling next week with more than a touch of Gascon bravado.

سكنا من الاول

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Arab leaders fight inexorable march of Islamic militants



Hassan: unable to quell hardliners

THE halting of the Algerian elections is seen in Arab capitals as merely an obstacle to the advance of Islamic fundamentalism, growing support for which is ticking like a time bomb in countries as diverse as Jordan, Egypt, Turkey, Tunisia, Syria and Sudan.

Reports of Pakistan's acquisition of nuclear expertise, Algeria's building of a new nuclear plant, and arms-buying by Iran in Russia and North Korea have increased the concern of Western and Arab intelligence agencies. There has been co-operation between Egypt, Tunisia and some European agencies to monitor an attempt by Iran to use Sudan in order to export militant Islam.

Iranian Revolutionary Guards have set up camps in

Growing popular support for Islamic fundamentalism is ticking like a time bomb in Arab countries, reports Christopher Walker from Amman

Sudan, where the military junta is under the sway of fundamentalists and where Sharia (Islamic law), was recently reinstated after a five-year suspension. The link between support for fundamentalists and the introduction of Western-style democracy in the Arab world is traced back to the Jordanian elections of November 1989 when fundamentalists won the biggest block of seats in the lower parliament.

Jordan had traditionally been regarded as one of the

most moderate Arab states. But the wave of support for the fundamentalists was seen as a reflection of true feelings — especially among the disillusioned and often unemployed young — exposed by King Hussein's pioneering decision to allow a fair poll.

The fundamentalists have since been given a boost in the Middle East by the Gulf war, which they opposed, and by severe economic problems that have increased disaffection among young Muslim men. Tunisia had already put

its armed forces on alert before the decision to scrap tomorrow's poll in Algeria. President Ben Ali last year crushed Tunisia's fundamentalist party by arresting 300 fundamentalists, amid accusations of torture, and expelling its leaders, accusing them of plotting a coup.

In Egypt, where President Sadat was assassinated by Muslim fanatics in 1981, the repression has been severe, also prompting protests from a number of human rights organisations over torture inflicted on Islamic detainees. Hundreds of activists were jailed without trial for voicing opposition to Egypt's involvement in the coalition against Iraq. The country is regarded in the West as the key to Middle East stability. This is

one reason why Western governments are thought to have overlooked the serious flaws in Egyptian democracy.

After events in Algeria, which sent shockwaves through the Egyptian establishment, Muslim militants have been given a warning about any attempts to take advantage. Abdel-Halim Moussa, the interior minister, said: "Our commitment to democracy does not limit our movement to confront immediately any attempt to break the law or destabilise security, whether by religious extremists or others."

He told a parliamentary committee the security services "were following closely" contacts between Egyptian militants and fundamentalist groups mainly in Algeria.

Iran and Sudan. In Morocco, King Hassan's title of *Amin al-Mouminine* (descendant of the Prophet Muhammad) is insufficient to dampen growing protests by fundamentalist groups. In Turkey, the fundamentalist Welfare party won just under 17 per cent of the vote last October.

The grimmest warning of trouble came from Anis Mansour, an Egyptian journalist close to President Mubarak, who wrote in *al-Ahram*: "He lies to himself and to all the people who say that [Ayatollah Khomeini] was an Iranian and will remain an Iranian. He is ignorant who says: 'How does this concern us? These are problems that relate to the Shia sect and we are Sunnis'."



Sadat was murdered by Muslim fanatics

Palestinians and Israelis finally sit down to talk

FROM MARTIN FLETCHER IN WASHINGTON AND RICHARD BEESTON AND PAUL ADAMS IN JERUSALEM

ISRAEL and the Palestinians finally began their first direct negotiations on interim Palestinian self-rule in the occupied territories on Monday night, and were due to resume their historic talks in Washington late yesterday.

At the initial two-hour meeting, the two sides put aside their procedural wrangling that had hindered previous talks and engaged in discussions and exchanged lists of issues for negotiation. Despite obvious disagreements on Israel's continued settlement activity in the occupied territories, Haim Ashwari, the Palestinian spokeswoman, said the inaugural meeting had been candid and honest, "not in the least bit confrontational".

Zelman Shoval, the Israeli ambassador to Washington, called the atmosphere "very friendly, very congenial".

Israeli and Jordanian negotiators were also due to commence their first direct negotiations yesterday, with the ultimate aim of achieving a peace agreement between the two countries.

Despite the breakthrough in the face of Arab protests, the Israeli negotiators were still planning to fly home tonight, determined that the talks should now be moved to the Middle East to underscore the fact that Arab states were now talking directly to them. But Dr Ashwari cautioned that the breakthrough was only a first step in a very

long process. "It is going to be very taxing."

Both sets of talks were made possible by an agreement, reached earlier on Monday, which had resolved a month-long dispute over the role of the joint Palestinian-Jordanian delegation. The Israelis had refused to meet the Palestinians separately, lest they implicitly recognised a distinct Palestinian identity.

Under the agreement, the Israelis are meeting two teams comprising nine Palestinians plus two Jordanians and nine Jordanians plus two Palestinians. These sub-committees will discuss issues exclusively affecting either the Palestinians or Jordan. However, the teams are defined as sub-committees of the joint delegation and not as separate delegations. Issues of general concern will be discussed by the full delegations.

Talks were also continuing yesterday between Israeli and Syrian negotiators, but more than 24 hours of meetings this month and last have produced virtually no progress whatsoever. Each side has adopted an uncompromising stance on the future of the disputed Golan Heights.

The breakthrough in Washington was however met with bloodshed in Israel when seven Israelis were injured last night after Palestinian gunmen raked a bus and car carrying Jewish settlers in the occupied West Bank with automatic fire. The incident,

was seen as an attempt by Palestinian hardliners to sabotage the peace efforts.

A spokesman for the Israeli defence force said that a number of shots were fired from the roadside near the Palestinian village of Kin Siniya. Soldiers immediately sealed off the area.

Settler leaders demanded that the government immediately recall the Israeli delegation in protest. Bob Lang, a spokesman for the Jewish communities in Judea, Samaria (West Bank) and Gaza, said: "Every time we talk peace, Jews are shot. The prime minister must say that we cannot sit at the same table with those who attack us. We know that the same Arab leaders in Washington are telling Arabs to keep up their violence against us."

Yesterday's ambush occurred only a few miles south of the site of a similar attack which was launched on the eve of last October's peace talks in Madrid that killed two people. Since then two other Jewish settlers have been killed in separate Palestinian gun attacks in the West Bank and Gaza Strip. The incidents have provoked violent responses from the right-wing settler movement.

So far the military authorities have responded by imposing curfew orders on Palestinian towns and villages and ordering the deportation of 12 Palestinian activists. However, yesterday's shooting is likely to intensify pressure on the government to clamp down even harder.

The right-wing anger threatens to bring down the government of Yitzhak Shamir, the Israeli prime minister. Yesterday, hardliners threatened to leave the government, unless he could prove that Israel was not offering autonomy to the Palestinians. Mr Shamir's aides admitted that early general elections were possible.

The latest threat to Mr Shamir's government followed reports that Israeli negotiators in Washington had presented the Palestinian delegation with a blueprint for self-rule in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip. Rehavam Zeevi, leader of the tiny Moleket party, which advocates the mass expulsion of Palestinians from the occupied territories, said: "If the news is correct... we are leaving the government."

Arms warning, page 10



Light fantastic: a model in a clinging, sequined silk dress stalks the catwalk yesterday in a show celebrating Hong Kong's fashion week

Suspected killer 'confesses'

FROM WILLIAM CASH IN LOS ANGELES

A CALIFORNIAN man on parole after serving nearly ten years in a Texas prison for beating his daughter to death emerged as a prime suspect yesterday for the serial killing of 19 women in Los Angeles.

William Sufi, aged 41, was arrested last week while with a prostitute on University Avenue, where several of the women were last seen alive. According to two Los Angeles television stations, Mr Sufi has confessed to some of the killings. The 19 bodies were found on hillsides, in alleys and along roads in Riverside

County, east of Los Angeles.

The revelation comes in the week that Jeffrey Dahmer, a necrophiliac, pleaded guilty but insane in Milwaukee to killing 15 men and boys. Last week a British former public schoolboy, Charles Ng, aged 30, went on trial at Calaveras, east of San Francisco, accused of being the "thriller killer" who stalked 11 women and filmed them pleading for mercy before raping and finally murdering them.

Mr Sufi and Mr Ng face the death penalty if convicted.

Yesterday, the Supreme Court ordered the California court of appeal to resolve cases involving death row prisoners more quickly. Since capital punishment was reinstated in 1976, no murderer has been executed against his will within a nine-state region where 462 inmates are on death row, 306 of them in California.

The spate of serial killings led to the order which stated that "any further postponements" of death penalty cases "will be subject to a most rigorous scrutiny".

Algeria ponders imposing state of emergency

FROM JOHN PHILLIPS IN ALGIERS

ALGERIA'S military-dominated regime was yesterday thought to be considering the imposition of a state of emergency and the dissolution of the Islamic Salvation Front unless it accepts the cancellation of the country's elections.

The independent newspapers *Le Matin* and *El Watan* said the High Security Council which assumed power on Monday after the resignation of President Chadli Benjedid could invoke article 87 of the constitution which allows for a "state of exception" to be imposed "when the nation is threatened by an imminent peril to its institutions".

El Watan said: "The way would be opened in this case for a dissolution of the Islamic Salvation Front."

The High Security Council, which on Sunday cancelled the country's first free parliamentary elections four days before the second round, was also expected to announce the formation of a "collegial presidency".

Observers said that the government of Sid Ahmed Ghouali had been discouraged by the uncompromising tone of a statement issued by the leaders of the Islamic front on Monday urging resistance to the curtailment of the elections, which the fundamentalists had been expected to win.

About 50 leaders of the front were believed to be attending a meeting at a secret location to decide on strategy. The fundamentalists are evidently divided. One faction, led by Abdelqadr Hachani, favoured limiting resistance to a call for the electoral process to be respected. But the jailed hardliner, Abassi Madani, reportedly wants opposition to extend to street marches and strikes which could lead to repression by the army. A third group, known as the "Afghans" because of their admiration for Muslim guerrillas in Afghanistan, is said to be in favour of an insurrection.

The appeal by the front stopped short of giving specific instructions to its supporters and the streets of Algiers were quiet yesterday. Shoppers and office workers seemed unperturbed by troops in full battle gear who were patrolling around key installations.

Muslim fundamentalist activists yesterday reacted with amazement to signs that the authorities might ban the Islamic front. Ismail, a carpenter said: "It is not just an office, they are going to ban the people!"

Outside, his workshop young fundamentalists gathered on street corners in front

of the Soonah mosque. "The ruling party is a bad loser," said Podli, a self-appointed spokesman for the group. "The National Liberation Front is dead but it wants to stay on the throne."

Hocine Ait Ahmed, the leader of the moderate front for Socialist Forces, hoped the Islamic front "can master its troops and not engage in operations that risk opening the door to civil war".

El Moudjahid, the newspaper of the former ruling National Liberation Front, has called for "the primacy of civil peace" and made no reference to the aborted democratic process. Many of the more independent newspapers shed no tears at the prospect of the fundamentalists being banned from party activities.

Jobless send Bush warning

FROM PETER STOTHARD US EDITOR, IN CONCORD, NEW HAMPSHIRE

THE unemployment lines of New Hampshire sent a warning to George Bush yesterday as the president prepared for his first 1992 campaign visit to the state that is threatening his future.

David Dupell of Concord, a well-dressed engineer who lost his job installing water sprinklers five months ago, told Patrick Buchanan, the conservative challenger, that he would vote any way necessary to get Mr Bush out of office. He was joined by Peter Hannagan, who lost his job as an arcade manager on the day that Mr Buchanan met him at the unemployment office. "I voted for Bush in '88 but will vote Buchanan now," he said. Asking "how long is the recession going to last," he said that he was "confused about how America got into this mess".

Mr Buchanan, who in speeches makes broad claims of the president's broken promise not to raise taxes, addressed the two men's cases, promising no easy end to America's economic troubles. At least two independent New Englanders, sharing the region's characteristic scepticism of politics, ended the day impressed. "I like his honesty," Mr Hannagan said.

When President Bush arrives in the state today, for what is billed as an economic tour of coastal towns, he will find that his primary campaign is clearly in trouble.

Mr Buchanan is now only 16 points behind Mr Bush, according to the latest poll of Republican primary voters. The former speechwriter and journalist, who a month ago could be discredited by the White House, is now a threat who can seriously embarrass Mr Bush on February 18, a day which the pro-Buchanan newspaper, *The Manchester Union*, said could provide the political upset of this century.

The boom state of the 1980s now has one of the fastest rising unemployment rates in the country. More than half of the banks are closed and many domestic property values have halved. At the employment office Mr Buchanan met the people whose case studies he used for important speeches as election day draws near.

Bush's first hurdle, page 14
Leading article, page 15

Church leaders urge Shamir to defend Christian rights

BY RICHARD BEESTON

LEADERS of the nine main Christian denominations in Jerusalem accused the Israeli authorities yesterday of flouting the rights of their communities in the Holy Land.

In a toughly worded statement, the heads of the churches, including Samir Kafry, the Anglican bishop, criticised the increase in Jewish settlement in Arab east Jerusalem and the apparent disregard shown by Israeli authorities for recently unearthed Christian archaeological remains.

"One of the most serious incidents, and the one with the widest repercussions, has been the seizure of houses in Silwan by settlers who enjoy public funding and seek to evict many other families from the same neighbourhood of Silwan," the state-

ment said. It cited as further grave incidents the seizure in April 1990 of the Greek Orthodox St John's Hospice in the old city's Christian quarter and what it termed the ambivalence of the Shamir government towards the settler movement.

The statement called on the police to protect church property after vandals belonging to the extremist Kach movement recently slashed the tyres of cars belonging to Christian institutions in Jerusalem and dubbed "Arabs get out" in Hebrew.

Earlier, Dr George Carey, the visiting Archbishop of Canterbury, had said that the Christian community in the Holy Land could disappear in 15 years unless steps were taken to protect their rights.

Yesterday's statement added: "As we have repeatedly stated in the past, we condemn any attempt to modify the demographic and unique character and status of Jerusalem." The statement, signed by the Greek Orthodox, Latin and Armenian patriarchs, demanded protection for recently discovered Byzantine and Armenian archaeological remains that were vandalised by ultra-orthodox Jews opposed to any excavations that might unearth Jewish tombs. "We demand the authorities provide protection against these depredations and take prompt action to forestall any harassment in the future," said the leaders, who threatened to take up the matter with Unesco, the United Nations body charged with protecting cultural heritage.

Widening universe expands minds

The universe will go on expanding for ever, if new information gathered by America's Hubble telescope is accurate.

Results announced this week at a meeting of the American Astronomical Society have confirmed previous estimates that there is simply too little ordinary matter in the universe to halt its expansion. Unless there is at least ten times as much "dark matter", which we can neither see nor feel, the universe is bound to expand infinitely.

The findings, reported at the meeting in Atlanta by Jeffrey Linsky, an astronomer at the National Institute of Standards and Technology, heightened the puzzle about the ultimate fate of the universe. Most astronomers would like to believe that the matter thrown outwards by the Big Bang will ultimately

Scientists are puzzled at evidence from the Hubble telescope which shows that there is too little matter in the cosmos to halt its growth, Nigel Hawkes writes

come to a halt, and start coalescing again as the universe heads towards a "Big Crunch".

Whether it will do so depends entirely on the total mass of the universe. If that is sufficient, the gravitational attraction will be enough to stop the expansion and ultimately reverse it. But Hubble's results confirm earlier estimates that the total visible mass is only a tenth of that needed for this to happen. The conclusion is that either we are in for infinite expansion, or there must be a form of dark matter which makes up nine-tenths of the universe.

The Hubble team arrived at its conclusions after making the most precise measurements yet of the amount of deuterium — heavy hydrogen — in the universe. Astronomers believe that most of the deuterium created in the Big Bang exists today, and by measuring the ratio of deuterium to hydrogen they can estimate the maximum amount of ordinary matter that can exist in the universe.

Studying the star, Capella, using Hubble's high resolution spectrograph, they found an amount of normal matter too small by a factor of ten to reverse the expansion of the universe. There is only a 10 per cent chance of error in the calculation.

Other scientists at the Atlanta meeting reported the finding of the element, boron, in three of the oldest stars in the Milky Way, but they confessed that they did not know where the element had come from.

The boron may be a remnant of the explosion of a supernova at the time the Milky Way was formed, or it may provide evidence that elements were unevenly distributed in the first three minutes of the Big Bang, leading to some stars having more of some elements than others in the universe.

This last possibility casts doubts on the general conviction that all matter was evenly distributed after the Big Bang, and had only begun to coalesce into stars much later.

سكتة من الالوان

The Gulf war, one year on: how the conflict left its mark on the Middle East...

Not quite a global disaster

BY MICHAEL MCCARTHY, ENVIRONMENT CORRESPONDENT

EVEN before President Saddam Hussein fired the Kuwaiti wells, the pundits predicted global catastrophe. Monsoons would fail, the world's climate system would be skewed, entire species would be lost. The end of the world was nigh.

The true environmental consequences of the Gulf war have been much obscured by propaganda and media exaggeration and are only now becoming apparent — but the pundits, it seems, were wrong. The war was dreadful, no question; but it was not armageddon.

The stream of warnings before the event was begun by King Hussein of Jordan in his speech to the World Climate Conference in Geneva in November 1990, and continued by a succession of anti-war groups in the west. The world climate system, they said, would be altered by the smoke from Kuwait's oil fires. The Asian monsoon, on which a billion people depend, would fail. Neither disaster happened.

On a regional basis, too, the vast mortalities of photogenic wildlife, and the extinctions of whole species, that were predicted for the oil-covered waters of the Gulf did not come to pass. Between 15,000 and 30,000 seabirds are thought to have died, but the dugongs, those curious and gentle sea-mammals which became instant celebrities when the oil slicks began, did not die in their hundreds, and neither did the green and hawksbill turtles: most of the vulnerable sea mammals remained too far to the south.

That said, the environmental impact of the war, where it did reach,

was without precedent both in the atmosphere and at sea, and it faded from the headlines only because events did not live up to the initial exaggeration.

According to figures released to *The Times* yesterday, it is probable that about 67 million tonnes of oil went up in smoke between the firing of Kuwait's wells by the retreating Iraqi army and the ceremonial extinguishing of the last burning wellhead by Kuwait's emir on November 6. Douglas Johnson, of the Meteorological Research Flight at Farnborough, who led a scientific investigation of the smoke plume, has calculated that this produced about 2.1 million tonnes of soot particles and about two million tonnes of sulphur.

Although these huge amounts of filth turned night into day above Kuwait, they did not affect the world climate system, because they did not get into the stratosphere. There they would have remained

above the rainclouds and — as some environmentalists feared — would possibly have caused the Asian monsoon to fail. As it happened, the soot particles got no higher than 5,000m, where rain washed them back down after a week to a fortnight. Locally, however, the smoke plume has indeed produced health problems on a huge scale, especially respiratory difficulties and skin afflictions. In September the World Health Organisation said it expected death rates in Kuwait to



Cormorant as war casualty: up to 30,000 seabirds are thought to have died, fewer than predicted

increase by ten per cent over the following year as a result.

The amount of oil released into the waters of the Gulf at the start of the war has been the subject of much speculation. Estimates range from the 11 million barrels General Schwarzkopf claimed at the outset to 0.5 million barrels, estimated by the Saudi Meteorology and Environmental Protection Administration on February 13. The average of these 25 estimates is 6.23 million barrels, and this is roughly in line

with the most recent US estimate of six million barrels of oil is easily the largest amount of crude ever spilled into the sea at one go, dwarfing the 250,000 barrels spilled by the Exxon Valdez in Alaska in 1989. Its effects have been terrible, but contained.

The huge slick drifted down the Saudi coastline for 350 miles, wrecking havoc, and was halted at Abu Ali Island. The intertidal zone — the sensitive area between high

and low water marks essential for many fish, small animals such as shrimps, and wading birds, and which in the Gulf is often represented by saltmarsh and mangrove swamp — has been largely wiped out.

However, because the slick was halted and did not reach Bahrain, Qatar and the islands of the southern Gulf, much greater mortalities were avoided.

Gulf war pictures, page 20

Brave new world fades

BY JAMIE DEITMER

A YEAR ago this morning Kuwaitis woke up to their 166th day under Iraqi occupation. As they dreamed about the liberation they were sure would come, they also considered what a new, post-war Kuwait would look like. Some believed a fully democratic future beckoned for the emirate. Opposition politicians, women, and journalists, accustomed to censorship all hoped for a brave new world. The high expectations have in many ways been dashed. The al-Sabah family has shown little understanding of the changed psychology of many of their people and resorted to its pre-war method of governing, using patronage to head off criticism and opposition.

Within a few days of liberation an independent newspaper, *February 26th*, which was formed quickly after the Iraqi rout, was banned. A prominent opposition politician, Hamad al-Joual, was shot and seriously wounded by military irregulars widely believed to be connected with hardline junior al-Sabah members.

A strong message was sent to those who wanted the emirate to change when a government reshuffle in April saw the re-appointment of the highly unpopular sheikhs Salem and Nawaf al-Sabah — interior and defence ministers at the time of the invasion — to the cabinet. The new cabinet included no opposition figures or resistance leaders in its ranks.

After growing internal political pressure and behind-the-scenes diplomatic persuasion, the emir eventually agreed to hold national assembly elections, and set the date for October 1992. The more western-style radical politicians are furious that the vote will remain limited to Kuwaiti males who can trace their ancestry back to 1920, thus restricting the electorate to about 70,000 people. Female resistance members are angry that they will still be denied a vote.

In the immediate months after liberation the al-Sabah family were criticised for the slow pace of emergency reconstruction of Kuwait City and the government was attacked for its failure to restore water and electricity supplies speedily. The languid style of government has continued. The pace of reconstruction has been slow. The service sector is still far from restored. The budget is five months late.

THE brave new world also failed to come for the 400,000 Palestinians resident in Kuwait before the Iraqi invasion. Nothing has done more to tarnish Kuwait than the semi-official vigilante-style campaign of arrests, torture and killings waged against the Palestinians from March to May. About 200,000 Palestinians remained in Kuwait during the Iraqi occupation. Some aided the Iraqis but the majority did not. The returning Kuwaitis wanted somebody to vent their anger against, and as transients the Palestinians had been resented long before the invasion.

Several hundred Palestinians were killed and tortured. The 200,000 who were outside the emirate on liberation have not been allowed to return. Those who had public sector jobs have been sacked and many private sector employers, including banks, have also dismissed Palestinian workers. Only about 50,000 Palestinians remain in Kuwait today.

The effect of the Palestinian exodus on Kuwait has been devastating. The Palestinians formed the main professional class in the emirate. Ministries are hide-bound because of the lack of technical staff. Kuwait has cut off its nose to spite its face.

Israel 'faces 1,000 missiles'

FROM RICHARD DREYFUS IN TEL-AVIV

ISRAEL'S defence minister, Moshe Arens, said yesterday that the international community had failed to learn the lessons of the Gulf war and continued to supply radical states in the Middle East with billions of pounds worth of weaponry.

Mr Arens said that Israel now faces hundreds of medium range missiles from potentially hostile countries in the Middle East, most of whom already have chemical weapons and some of whom are engaged in aggressive programmes to acquire nuclear arms.

"It is clear that a number of countries, specifically Iran and Libya, have medium range missiles with chemical warfare capability and are trying to obtain nuclear capability," he told *The Times*. "In the Middle East today there must be 1,000 missiles in Iraq, Iran, Syria, Libya and Saudi Arabia, most with a range to hit Israel."

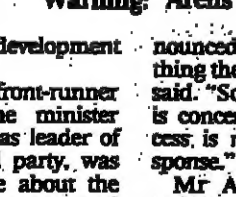
Although controlling the sale of sophisticated weapons to the Middle East was seen as a priority by the West at the end of the Gulf war, the arms bazaar now appears to be

more active than ever. Iran has embarked on an ambitious campaign to modernise its military, particularly with hardware such as tanks and warplanes from redundant Soviet stockpiles. Syria is attempting to spend \$1 billion on similar weapons and Libya is reported to have tried to hire

former Soviet nuclear experts to help develop the atom bomb. Israel, the only confirmed nuclear power in the region, continues to receive about \$1 billion a year in American military aid as well as hundreds of millions of pounds in defence-related research and development funding.

Mr Arens, the front-runner to replace prime minister Yitzhak Shamir as leader of the ruling Likud party, was utterly dismissive about the prospects of any arms control agreement for the Middle East being reached when the subject is raised in Moscow on January 28 as part of scheduled multilateral talks.

Warning: Arens



Israel received its first Scud missile attack a year ago this week. "It is hard to second guess Arab dictators but most of them are aware of Israel's military capability and I don't think that any of them are under the illusion that they could attack Israel without response," he said.

"They all know that if Israel did not hit back at Iraq it was not because we lacked the capability of doing so, or lacked the desire of doing so."

However, were Israel to be targeted by surface to surface missiles today, it is doubtful whether its civilian population would be much better protected than it was last year.

Not only has the reputation of the American Patriot missile system been dented by reports that it provided inadequate defence against Scud missiles aimed at Israel and Saudi Arabia, but Israel's own anti-missile system, the Arrow, is said to have malfunctioned on its last three test launches.

Embarrassed Israeli officials have also announced that all gas masks issued for the Gulf war will be replaced by October this year, because one in three was estimated to be faulty.

Weak demand

BY MARTIN BARROW

were suspended and Saudi Arabia increased output from five million barrels per day (bpd) to 8.5 million barrels. This made good most of the 4.5 million bpd that were lost when Iraq and Kuwait were removed from the international market. These levels have been sustained — or even increased — and last November Opec produced just under 25 million bpd, against a target of 23.5 million bpd. A mild winter in the northern hemisphere, affecting demand for heating fuel, has left the market awash with oil.

Oil prices could fall further this spring if, as expected, Iraq resumes oil exports and Opec is not able to impose cuts on other members. Last week Iraqi officials met representatives of the United Nations seeking to agree a formula that would allow the war-ravaged country to sell oil and raise funds for humanitarian purposes, such as the purchase of medicine and the reconstruction of hospitals. A UN resolution letting Iraq export \$1.6 billion of oil over a six-

month period is conditional upon Baghdad agreeing to use some of the funds to pay war reparations. Iraq is vehemently opposed to this condition but talks between the parties continue. Kuwait is also moving steadily towards the resumption of normal oil exports. All oil well fires have been extinguished and last November the emirate produced almost 500,000 bpd. This time next year it is likely that production will have returned to pre-war levels.

Opec meets next month to allocate quotas for the second quarter of 1992 and will attempt to bring production back under control. The organisation's record in forging agreements and then making them stick is not good, and oil traders foresee further price weakness as the cold season in the northern hemisphere draws to a close.

Saudi Arabia would benefit from higher oil prices but is understandably reluctant to be seen to be reducing oil output to accommodate the Iraqis, who little more than one year ago were bombing Saudi civilians. In America Saudi action to support higher oil prices would be interpreted as a poor way of thanking the US for its help in the war.

Britain and America, the leading figures in the coalition against Saddam, will view lower oil prices as a mixed blessing. Although lower energy costs provide welcome relief in the battle against inflation, both countries are significant oil producers and will suffer from lower revenues.

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and how television became a willing tool of the military machine — or did it?

Shooting news from both sides

A conflict of images

BY MARK LAITY

The editors of quality newspapers, worried by the implications for sales of the burgeoning "global village", should engrave on their video processors an addition to that most catchy of the promotional jingles for Ted Turner's Cable News Network: "The moment television news captures live is a moment the world remembers."

The addition should be: "... but rarely comprehends."

Nowhere was this more apparent than during the Gulf war, seen by many as CNN's finest hour and the main reason why Turner, the 53-year-old former America's Cup yachtsman and third husband of Jane Fonda, who founded the network, was *Time* magazine's nomination as Man of the Year.

To those of us watching CNN in places where the war was taking place, it quickly became clear that viewers around the world and our own news desks were often getting a very different impression of what was taking place, and why.

CNN's coverage, for all its technical brilliance, presented war as sanitised public theatre, a war without much blood, few corpses and little mental anguish, in a world where appalling examples of military speak such as "collateral damage" (a euphemism for human carnage) passed unquestioned. It was also a war where censorship and manipulation were frequent.

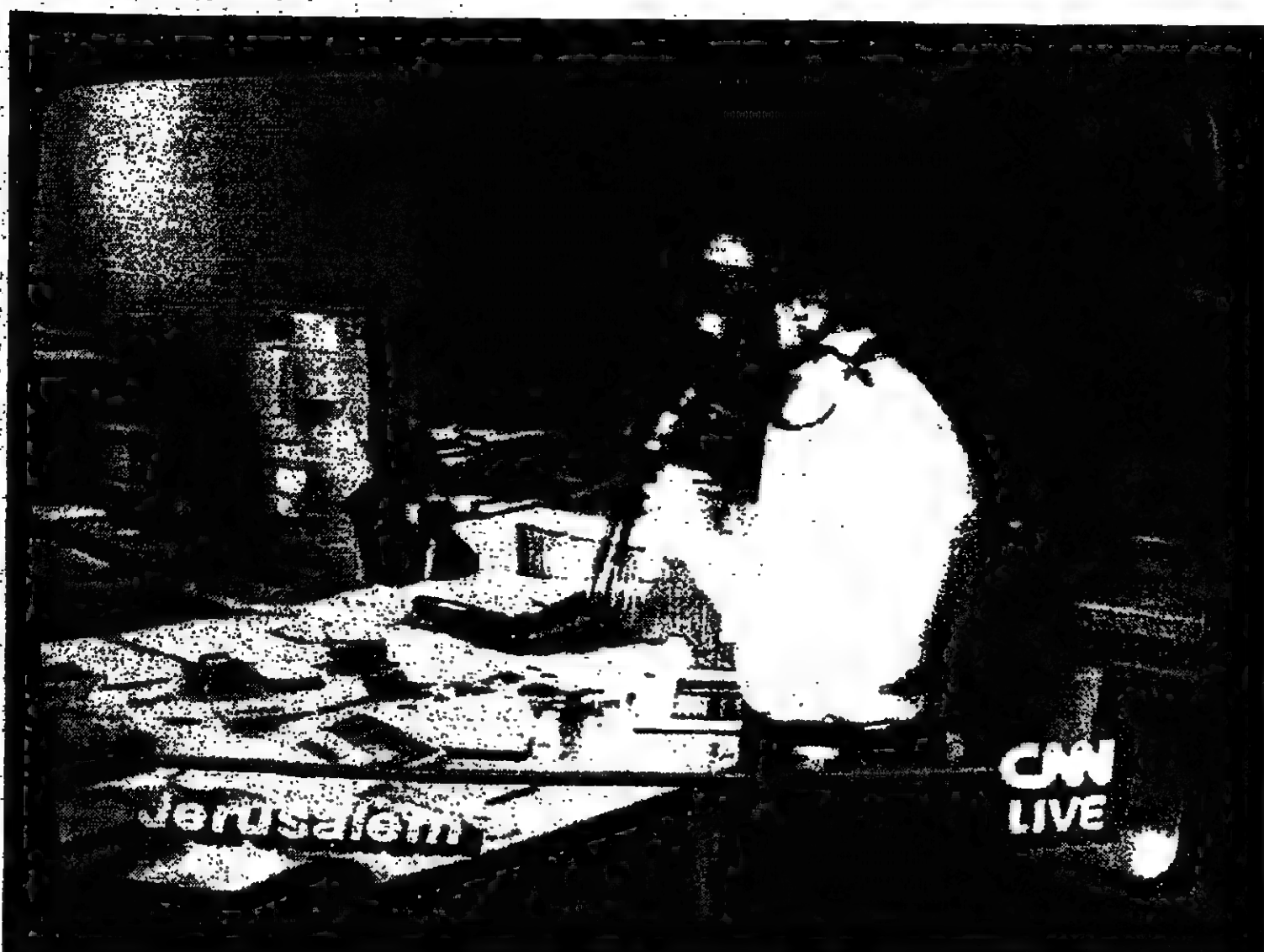
It is no surprise that it was only newspapers and news magazines that carried shocking images and full descriptions of the terrible carnage of the Gulf war.

Similarly, it was the written word which carried accounts of the brutally suppressed Shia Muslim uprising in the south of Iraq, while television concentrated on the equally horrific but physically more accessible fate of the Kurds in the north.

While some would argue that one result of CNN's instant transmission of news into the living rooms of 150 countries is to sound the death knell of that endangered species, the newspaper, foreign correspondent in reality it should increase their usefulness, provided there is a realisation that a radically new approach to their work is needed.

As *Time* argued in its criticism for the man it named, with curious Washington-style pomposity, as Robert Edward Turner III, the very definition of news was re-written, during 1991, from "something that has happened" to "something that is happening at the very moment you are hearing of it".

That was driven home to me in unerring fashion in the early days of the air war last January when, on more than one occasion, the 24-hour *Times* Gulf news desk in London would anxiously ring my room in the Dharan Meidien Hotel to wake me with the warning (that they had inevitably seen on CNN) that a Scud missile alert had been announced for eastern Saudi Arabia.



Front-page news from an embattled front line: CNN reporter Larry Register files his report from Jerusalem after a Scud missile attack

The proper response of a correspondent is to concentrate on digging information in areas where television cameras are unable, forbidden or unwilling to tread, and to concentrate on description, explanation and investigation.

Given that CNN whets the appetite for events in far-off places, there is no reason why the quality press cannot thrive off it. Serious viewers of CNN want to know more about what they have seen, and are often put off by the gauche Americanness of the commentary.

As yet, these are only hints that this changed approach is beginning to alter the traditional front page mix in what was Fleet Street. The change should not be wholesale, as the printed word is still needed to drive home points that, in televised images, slip quickly through the mind. Papers also have a valuable function as vehicles of record that live television can never usurp.

Although CNN has matured enormously from the days when it was known derisively as "The Chicken-Noodle Network", it and the other American and British television organisations are much more open to being tools of officialdom than those whose main tools remain the pen and the notebook.

Given allowance for some professional jealousy, this was graphically illustrated by John Simpson, BBC Television's foreign editor and a model exponent of the thinking person's on-screen reporter in his first-hand account of the traumatic events in Baghdad 12 months ago this week.

"The Iraqis badly wanted the television people to stay. In particular, they wanted CNN to stay. Saddam Hussein's strategy was dependent on having American television in Baghdad who could see — and transmit — the terrible scenes he expected would take place. This was why he anticipated only two air strikes on the city: CNN would show the results to the American people, who would put such pressure on George Bush that the air war would be called off."

Simpson wrote in *From The House of War*.

Simpson continues: "CNN was already Saddam's favourite channel, and it was a status symbol for Saddam's ministers to have it in their office. It was pumped into Saddam's bunker and into the safe houses he maintained around the city. It was his window on the world: which explained, someone said caustically, why his view of the world was so weird."

As any print reporter who has worked alongside a television team knows, television news is nothing if it does not have pictures, and its brief account of events is normally tailored to fit the pictures rather than the facts.

In war, this practice is especially dangerous, because when the pictures are deemed too shocking to be aired (it makes the mind boggle as to how CNN would have covered the liberation of Belsen), the accompanying description is also often omitted.

"It quickly becomes war as video game, rather than war as it really is: brutal, vomit-making and often unedifying for those involved," one Western radio correspondent says.

By inadvertently helping Saddam's missile aims to adjust their coefficients, by their practice of identifying Scud targets, later halted after protest, and by going along with Allied military censorship, CNN played a major — but not always blameless — role in the public's comprehension of, and therefore attitude to, the war and its aftermath.

The macabre sight of its reporters and other television teams working in their gas masks helped to drive home the dangers of reporting the conflict. But the net result of much of the footage was to reduce understanding rather than increase it, particularly when the machinations of the military spin doctors from the Pentagon and Whitehall went unchallenged.

"History as it happens" is how *Time* characterised the output of CNN's round-the-clock news service. Newspapers are not obliged to agree with Henry Ford in order to realise that this is a slick and frequently shallow formula to which they can provide a vital complement, rather than slow-footed rivalry.

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TV TRUTHS

NEWSPAPERS can be a bit like Britain in the Fifties, in that, to adapt Dean Acheson's quote, they've lost their pre-eminence, and are yet to find a new role. They can't beat television to the punch, and yet nothing gets a back's blood racing as much as being first. So, when the papers start talking about more analysis, it's tempting to applaud. The trouble is they can't help sneering at the upstart newcomer, television, as they do it.

The latest incarnation of this view is that television made a mess of the Gulf war. It's fashionable to say that the coalition managed the news, "sanitising" the war, while television meekly gave way, ignoring the real issues. The heroes are the print reporters who broke the rules.

But the idea that television submitted to official control more than print did does not wash. ITN had a team unofficially holed up in Khafji, Saudi Arabia, a BBC *Newnight* team roamed freely throughout the war, and other BBC crews made unauthorised trips to Khafji during the Iraqi attack. Just before the ground war, many television networks simply ignored the rules to get the story.

They also had teams with Centrom HQ in Riyadh, and on any pool (the official journalists attached to military units) they could get. In other words, they covered every base — just as the newspapers did. No news organisation covering a story can avoid making its pacts with officialdom in exchange for access.

To say the allies "managed" the news in the Gulf war also makes one-sided a more complex game. The power of television, especially CNN, produced more openness than the military intended, or newspapers could manage. However, it is a curious feature of journalists that we get a buzz from the covert source, as if the unnamed source does not have its own agenda. CNN is also in a different category from other television, being more of a visual Reuters, putting out raw information. Treated that way, it is more asset than hindrance.

It was also television's video of the Basra Road that shook the world. It was television, including the BBC and CNN, that reported the Baghdad bunker bombing, to the coalition's anger and dismay. Shocking images, full of the "reality" of war allegedly only reported by print.

In fact, the most memorable print response to the bunker bombing was by the *Daily Express*, in a story headlined "Outrage Over BBC War Bias". The editorial slant of some of the media seems to me to have had a far bigger impact on what the public were told than official arm-twisting.

Equally, television does not deserve a clean bill of health. The instant demands of live news give over-pressured reporters unrivalled opportunities for being instantly wrong, while giving a further shove to journalists' already strong tendency to sensationalise.

All this is hardly new, so why the fuss? The fact is the debate about the Gulf has a second agenda, which has little to do with the nature of print and television journalism. Some journalists assume official information is disinformation, only exposed by fearless reporters swanning around the desert. Yet official information should be treated like any other source, and judged on its record — and that of the official briefings that they said. Pretty much what they said was happening, happened. Sure, they didn't tell us the whole story, but there was no repeat of Vietnam, with systematic deception of the media.

The military recognised that to be ultimately self-defeating. The American military learnt from Vietnam, and the only people who do not seem to have realised it were Saddam Hussein and some of the media.

But television's besetting sin was that it supposedly broadcast a "clean" Gulf war, and not enough of the "reality" of war. This is, of course, code for showing bits of bodies, but is that all the reality of warfare amounts to? War is about heroism as well as fear, flag-waving as well as refugees, drama as well as death. Journalists should show it all, and let the public decide whether war is hell.

The author is defence correspondent for BBC Radio.

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BRIEFING

Turandot to tour

THE Royal Opera's production of Puccini's *Turandot*, seen this month at Wembley Arena, will now travel to regional venues and abroad, according to Raymond Gubbay, promoter of the Wembley venture. Manchester, Birmingham, Glasgow and Sheffield are likely candidates for a transfer, with Amsterdam possible as the first overseas stop. Gubbay appears undaunted by the moderate houses at Wembley: for ten performances, *Turandot* sold 56,000 of its 80,000 tickets. He claims to have recouped the £2.5 million invested in the experiment.

Mersey mission

HAVING only recently made its first American appearance — playing Paul McCartney's *Liverpool Oratorio* in Carnegie Hall — the Royal Liverpool Philharmonic will be back in the United States next month on an 11-city tour, under its Czech music director, Libor Pešek. The orchestra's mission is not purely musical. It is being sponsored by the Merseyside Development Corporation, with the overt intention of attracting American investment to Liverpool.

Another British orchestra, the City of Birmingham Symphony, will be looking enviously at its northern rival. The CBSO announced last week that its planned American tour this spring was on the point of being abandoned, for lack of a sponsor.

Last chance...

ENGLISH National Ballet's new production of *The Nutcracker* will have clocked up 55 performances in seven weeks when its London run ends at the Festival Hall (071-928 8800) on Saturday. This is ENB's seventh different staging of the ballet since 1950. The present one, by Ben Stevenson with designs by Desmond Heeley, will now be packed away until the autumn.

ARTS REVIEWS

Music Theatre,
Rock and Opera
page 18

THEATRE

Come back Jimmy, all is unforgiven

John Osborne was one of the first Angry Young Men. Benedict Nightingale finds that he, almost alone, has not mellowed

Max Stafford-Clark, speaking with the authority of 13 years as the Royal Court's director, recently expressed the opinion that dramatists have a pretty short working life. Shaw and Ayckbourn were the exceptions, he suggested; Congreve and Wilde nearer the norm. Nobody could look at the fluctuating fortunes of the writers who came to prominence in the 1950s and 1960s, many of them at the Court itself, without wondering if his fatalism was justified.

Most people know that Harold Pinter, the finest of them all, has written just three plays in the last ten years, only one of which, *Party Time*, comes close to reconciling his latter-day radicalism with the earlier work. But what has become of the others who created our theatrical renaissance? What of the founding father, the author of the seminal *Look Back in Anger*, John Osborne himself? Has he been doing much more than fight for the freedom to puff Turkish cigarettes?

Yes, at long last he has. His sequel to *Look Back in Anger*, *Déjàvu*, was actually due to open in Liverpool in November. Frustratingly, Osborne and Peter O'Toole, who was to perform the ageing Jimmy Porter, could not agree on cuts and the production was shelved. But Faber has now published the text and, long and cranky though it is, it left me for one longing to hear its sandblasted rhetoric come rasping over the footlights.

What has happened to Jimmy since we left him and his wife Alison whimsically comparing themselves to bears and squirrels back in 1956? For a teasing moment the answer seems to be, nothing. He and his chum Cliff slump over the Sunday papers while Alison irons, just as they did at the start of *Look Back in Anger*. But the attic flat is now the kitchen of a sprawling country house.

Jimmy, like Cliff, has greyed. Alison is his daughter by a second marriage which, like his first, has ended badly. Cliff has worked for the BBC, married a woman Jimmy thinks boringly house-proud, and sent his children to Bedales. The first Alison is now a chic actress who takes a "pack of nancy boys" to see her reading at "galas for Aids Concern", as Jimmy sneeringly puts it.

What he himself has done since the council closed his sweet stall is unclear. The champagne seems to flow freely in Schloss Porter, so perhaps he has made a killing out of being the anti-hero of *Anger*. Certainly, there are references galore to his earlier incarnation. The white-tile university and the "white rhino", his mother-in-law, both resurface. Alison's occult artistry of his earlier work. But what has become of the others who created our theatrical renaissance? What of the founding father, the author of the seminal *Look Back in Anger*, John Osborne himself? Has he been doing much more than fight for the freedom to puff Turkish cigarettes?

'Jimmy was mistaken for a radical; updated, he sounds like a scattershot blimp.'

One common objection to Osborne's plays was that they were little more than excuses for one character to air his prejudices. There is something almost exhilaratingly bloody-minded about the snooks that *Déjàvu* cocks at such critics. It has no plot at all. True, Jimmy echoes *Anger* by alienating the new Alison and sleeping with her friend, again called Helena. He also has an offstage son in trouble for vandalising a church. But the function of the supporting cast is to listen while Jimmy, aided by a surprisingly dyspeptic Cliff, disgorges verbal stomach acid.

Perhaps that is what he has been doing since 1956. He spent the 1960s, 1970s and 1980s talking, talking, talking, and plans no sudden career change in the 1990s. How could he, when there is so much to mock? The list here includes wet vicars, trendy bishops,



Seminal: Jimmy Porter (Kenneth Haig) and Alison (Mary Ure) in John Osborne's *Look Back in Anger* at the Royal Court, 1956

education, pop concerts, "yool" culture, vegetarians, fashionable charities, feminists, gay crusaders, the smoke police, people called Charlene and Kevin, the Royal Court, arts subsidy, people "into personal growth", animal rights, Europe, sport, things ethnic, lager louts, the miners' strike, baby seals, one-parent families, and "progressives, futurologists and illiterates".

The old Jimmy, railing as he did at the Establishment, was widely mistaken for a radical. The updated one sounds like a scattershot blimp. But actually both are frustrated individuals with strong anarchic tendencies. Let any sign of group complicity appear, indeed let two or three people agree about anything at all, and Jimmy's verbal dynamite is instantly out of his travelling bag.

Naturally, this vexes others. Osborne is harder on Jimmy than in *Anger*, letting an Alison far tougher than her predecessor call him "mad and utterly horrible", "un-

loved", unlovable and unloving". Though he himself describes his anger as grief for lost decency, "slow, gentle, not vindictive or full of spite", there is probably weight in her accusations. Some of Jimmy's everyday banter — his limberies about sodomite writers and anal dilation — is meant seriously to offend.

But will we ever get a chance to be offended by *Déjàvu*? Though our theatre can boast of sadly few new dramatists, it can be ruthless to its older ones. The nation's children may still study Arnold Wesker's *Roots*, but impresarios resist his reshaping of *The Merchant of Venice*, *Shylock*, and his enterprising picture of postmodernism in action, *The Wedding Feast*. He continues to write and is now in Chicago, supervising the production of his new *Three Women Talking*. He has not had a major London showing since *Caritas* at

the National Theatre in 1981. Peter Nichols, missing from London since *Piece of My Mind* in 1986, saw his *About Turner* ("a Jekyll and Hyde story," he says, "rather bleak") scheduled for the National, then dropped. He is now trying to sell *Ravishing*, about a trek through the Himalayas, and not very hopefully composing yet another play. At the back of his mind may be the memory of John Arden, the author of *Serjeant Musgrave's Dance* and *Live Like Pigs*, who these days writes novels, not plays. But then Arden committed a kind of conscientious suicide some years ago, abandoning the large-minded drama everybody admired for a narrow didacticism most people hated.

Arden's example would seem to support Stafford-Clark's generalisation. Yet there is evidence to refute him. Didn't London recently see Simon Gray's excellent *Hidden Laughter*? Isn't Tom Stoppard, who has busied himself with film

scripts since *Happgood* in 1988, reported to be writing a new stage play? And what of David Storey, whose theatrical career seemed to have ended with *Early Days* in 1980?

He kept writing, always mentally fashioning his work for the theatre which had achieved such success with *Home*, *The Contractor* and *Life Class*. But under his present director, Stafford-Clark himself, the Court snubbed his advances. Then in 1989 his *March on Russia* burst into the National. Now the same theatre plans soon to present his *Stages*, with Alan Bates in the lead, and may follow it with a two-hander called *Caring*.

The moral is obvious: don't write off old trouper until they are under the sod. The final stage-direction of *Déjàvu* calls for loud martial music to counter "audience dissent". Maybe we'll get the chance to boo the 60-year-old Jimmy Porter yet.

• *Déjàvu* is published by Faber (£4.99)

HERITAGE

Cutting remarks and the concentrating power of fear

At a Christmas party Jocelyn Stevens was presented with an executioner's sword, a symbol of his past eight years as rector of the Royal College of Art and perhaps his next job, as chairman of English Heritage. He used it to bat away a hail of bread rolls that followed his speech of thanks.

"Next day I went to the English Heritage council meeting, where they were telling me how they liked to let their hair down at Christmas. 'Chuckling bread rolls about, I suppose?' I said. 'Oh no, nothing as childish as that,' they said. 'You have to have a sense of fun.'"

His idea of fun for the last eight years has been to transform entirely the Royal College of Art, and he promises to

Jocelyn Stevens, about to take over as head of English Heritage, talks to Simon Tait

do the same to English Heritage when he becomes chairman on April 1. According to Stevens, English Heritage is highly inefficient, overstuffed and in the wrong place.

His appointment to succeed Lord Montagu was announced last August, and since then he has attended every monthly council meeting. "Up on the top floor I found a notice announcing my appointment, with giant red arrows pointing at it: 'The Piranha is coming!' Honest-

ly, with a reputation like that, half the job is done before I get there."

Stevens thrives on the adrenalin of other people's fear. At his third meeting of the EH council he asked a question: "What is the mission?" "They all looked very puzzled and wanted to know what I meant. I said it was simple: was the mission to save buildings or to keep giving themselves healthy pay rises and living in pleasant accommodation? It confused them so much I had to promise not to ask the question again until April 1."

He hates bureaucracy and waste, both of which he believes English Heritage is guilty of. "There is a civil service attitude which is about looking after one's own position, and that has to go."

English Heritage itself will have to go too, out of London. "There are 1,700 members of staff occupying hugely expensive offices in the West End, about as costly as you can get. They need to be out, where the heritage is, around the country."

"The image is a very forbidding one, and English Heritage has to be accessible, reaching out, looking as if it really cares about the heritage and protecting it. Instead it's got a reputation for blocking things," he says. "Even the head office is called Fortress House and the logo, that crenellated square, is hopeless."

Between April 1 and July 31 Stevens' jobs will overlap, and he will use the RCA to declare some of his intentions for the other. "There's going to be an exhibition called *England in Aspic* which will ask a question: 'Is this country one big heritage centre in which all progress should stop?'"

He has even annoyed some by remarking in council that the fight to save the building on Number One Poultry, the Mappin and Webb site in the City of London, was wrong and that the Mies van der Rohe building Lord Palumbo originally wanted to build on it might have been a worthy replacement for an "undistinguished" Victorian building. The protectionist lobby, he believes, is too powerful and English Heritage has not been bold enough to stand up to it.

When Stevens became rec-



Jocelyn Stevens: "With a reputation like mine, half the job is done before I get there."

tor of the RCA in 1984 he had a letter from the minister for higher education telling him that unless drastic changes were made, the college might be closed. He made the changes.

The college is now nearly all on one site, with a new £12 million development called the Stevens Building; sponsorship has risen to such an extent that 25 per cent of income is now non-government; fees have been raised to nearer actual cost level; last year academic staff rose by 8.6 per cent, student applications for this academic year were up 27 per cent and applications from Europe rose 78 per cent. Stevens likes to call the RCA the European University of Art and Design.

His legacy to his still unnamed successor is to leave the Royal College of Art with

none of the accommodation problems which beset it in the past. But from next academic year the college will have to fight alongside the universities for its government grant from the higher education funding council, instead of receiving a direct grant from the education department.

"As to the staff, I wouldn't swap any of them," he says. I reminded him that he had already swapped most of them several times. "I wouldn't swap them again, then," he replies.

English Heritage's staff can look forward to similar pruning. "Marcus Binney wrote that one of my tasks would be to stop the best people leaving, and I'm afraid it might be too late. More a question of getting them back. English Heritage is hugely inefficient. What it needs is fewer, better people who care about the heritage."

LONDON INTERNATIONAL MIME FESTIVAL

Some of the right moves

A dozen years ago the art of mime meant, to most British theatre-goers, one person only: Marcel Marceau. And one style only: silent, white-faced, trapped within the narrow range of emotions between panic and pathos. For Bip, Marceau's most famous creation, entrapment was the mode of life. Invisible walls closed in upon him; a smiling mask stuck to his face and could not be torn off.

The smile was his own, of course, and the contrast between his writhing limbs and the persistent grin suggested, well, what exactly? The pain of fitting in with the world, perhaps. Bip always had trouble with the world. The sight of a red flower might bring a moment's cheer but no happiness would outlast the moment. Marceau was an artist of outstanding physical precision but his art took mime into a cul de sac, a black and white world of primary but limited expression.

Look around at the style of the participants in the London International Mime Festival now in its 15th year. They talk, they sing, they dance, they clown; there are acrobats, jugglers, conjurers. They will almost certainly all be expert in twisting their bodies into most peculiar shapes, and showing emotion with the roll of an eye or a twitch of the nose. But has the range of these emotions fundamentally altered?

Superficially, yes. Today's mimes inhabit the world of today, where people chafe at office work, rage at their spouses, set off on holidays, cook each other meals, plot revenge, are sexually abused, love, daydream and die. All human life would seem to be there, in one or other of the score of companies and solo performers currently display-

Jeremy Kingston looks at the ways in which mime has expanded its scope and asks whether more is possible

ing their skills. More interaction takes place than in the performances by Marceau, who did make use of assistants but never equals. For its pictures of the hazards of modern society *Théâtre de Complicité* can call on the 30 or more players who have at various times appeared under its banner. *Glee* is an emotion nowadays to be seen — though invariably, if memory serves, it disintegrates into mayhem and panic.

Historically, dumb-show was not the essential fact of mime, and the re-introduction of speech could have made possible subtler nuances of feeling. Life is not only black and white but complicated combinations of all the colours in between, and it is those complications of human response, the troublesome ambivalence, that speaking mime seldom addresses.

Take *Ave Maria*, the solo show by Linda Kerr Scott at the ICA Theatre. An excellent

actress, unforgettably poignant yet perky as the *Dummy* in *Ghetto*, agile and adroit, she here portrays a disappointed spinster who is trapped (inevitably) in a tenement room, and trapped within her narrow range of fantasies.

Perched six feet off the ground at a sewing table, she is lying socks, cardies and other clothes, but also cereal packets, beer cans and a tea-strainer, to an enormous cloth that sweeps down to the ground like a coronation robe worn back to front. "It's a multi-purpose blanket for the world," are her first words. She shuffles about the place in her fake giraffe-head slippers, skitters into the audience to represent a visit to church, addresses the Virgin and moans, as she puts it, "the uses of her body was never put to."

Too scared of hell to have risked enjoyment, she lets out her scolding rage on an upturned chair which she stabs to death. Yes, she looks unhappy and, yes, she sounds distressed and, yes, her performance was hailed at the Edinburgh Festival.

But not only are her predicaments the familiar ones of the harassed misfit but their expression is superficial, uninvolved and somehow incomplete. As spoken mime approaches the province of drama, physical agility must obtain dramatic structure.

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Truth or dare, from left: did Maxwell jump; Hess act alone; Wilson spy for the Soviets; Ceausescu escape death; and who slept with Marilyn Monroe?

Thickening the plots

Who killed Kennedy? Was Wilson a spy? Maxwell: a fall or a push? Joe Joseph reports on plots and paranoia

These are feverish times for conspiracy theorists. Sometimes you sit, quietly worrying that perhaps the world's conspiracy theorists are losing their grip on reality, when something comes along to show you that, actually, they are going clean round the bend.

The death of Robert Maxwell, the collapse of the drug-money-laundering Bank of Credit and Commerce International, the spooky way you feel faint if you do your de-up very, very tightly and then hold your breath — everything nowadays is food for hysterical plot-lanciers. Paranoia is everywhere. It will spread when JFK, Oliver Stone's new film on the assassination of President John F. Kennedy, arrives in Britain next week.

Stone has pointed his finger at a new suspect. His premise seems to be that just about everyone remembers what they were doing when Kennedy was shot, because just about everyone was involved in the plot. The events of November 22, 1963, have a simple explanation. But before we reveal what really happened, let us unravel some other great mysteries.

Robert Maxwell: After Maxwell fell from his yacht on November 5, some said he took his life, knowing that the Serious Fraud Office and debt-collectors from the Swiss Bank Corp were on to him. Or was he knocked off by secret agents from Moscow, the KGB, M15, the Stasi? Did he take heart attack simulation pills to trick life insurers into paying up for his suicide? A Spanish judge chose natural causes. An autopsy in Israel found signs that he was attacked. *Paris Match* magazine reports.

Correct answer: Maxwell

faked his own big splash, using a double. He has since started a new life in Brazil, doing "house visit" haircuts, perms and tints for busy Rio socialites. He likes to boast to clients that he used to trim Henry Kissinger's sideburns.

The Soviet Coup: Was Mikhail Gorbachev the force behind August's coup against himself? Did Gorbachev plot with the hardliners in the hope of rescuing the union? Did he fool the plotters into thinking that he was one of them, but with the secret aim of flushing out his real enemies?

Correct answer: Gorbachev did indeed join the plot to save the union, but he thought it was the Credit Union in which party bigwigs kept their savings. The union was run by Robert Maxwell, and word was out that the cash was at risk. He had gone to Crimea to get his paying-in book when all hell broke loose back in Moscow.

Rudolph Hess: Was there a doppelgänger? Why, in 1941, did Hess, Hitler's deputy and confidant, fly to Scotland — and into a life of captivity? Did Hitler know? Was Hess's purpose, as the Russians suspected, to propose an attack on Russia? Why was a prison requiring a staff of 105 needed to guard him?

Correct answer: Hess was smuggled out from Spandau to New Jersey in 1953 and worked as a short-order cook in a Trenton hamburger bar. He became famous for always forgetting to put chocolate sprinkles on the ice cream sandwiches. "Where are the sprinkles, Rudolf?" became his catchphrase.

The Harold Wilson Smear: A Soviet spy? Was 10 Downing Street a communist cell? The material was piled high. By M15? He visited Moscow, for heaven's sake. Was Hugh Gaitskill murdered in 1963 by the KGB to make way for Wilson? Peter Wright, a former M15 officer, confessed that he had filed false evidence to substantiate anti-Wilson smears. Colin Wallace, another intelligence



Everyone remembers what they were doing: plotting to kill Kennedy

officer, claimed to know of an M15 operation that also tried to rock the government. But in 1987 Margaret Thatcher said an M15 enquiry had found no evidence of an anti-Wilson conspiracy.

Correct answer: Yes, Wilson was an agent though he never made a letter drops. Instead, he sent messages to Moscow by smoke signals from his pipe when interviewed on the BBC Nine O'Clock News. He was al-

most found out once when his pipe accidentally went out, a coded "disaster" signal, before they could be stopped. The Russians had built Milton Keynes.

Romania: Who really overthrew Nicolae Ceausescu? What about this: it took Romanians years to realise that life under a dictator was a pain, but when they realised it they were mad as hell. The National Salvation Front was installed as a replacement amid cheers and turmoil. But was the havoc a clever front for a palace coup? Did Moscow set the ball rolling? What happened to the Securitate officers who spread terror during the revolution and then vanished?

Correct answer: Ceausescu was treasurer of the local Credit Union and got greedy (see above). He escaped death and now acts in Iraqi television commercials for an onomatopoeic cough medicine called "Ceausescu". Mrs Ceausescu is waitingress in Baghdad.

BCCI: Quite a few of the bankrupt Bank of Credit and Commerce International's 3,000 customers were sleazy crooks. But some intelligence agencies from some of the world's most pukka governments were entangled in the mess. What were they getting out of it? Was the mafia in there too? And the CIA?

Correct answer: BCCI started as the kitty for a Tuesday night poker game. Players started borrowing at high interest rates to cover their gambling debts. Things finally got out of hand one night when one declared "Kings high", and Mary

King, a well-known spy working undercover, keeled over and died from a heroin overdose. King had never unmasked anyone and was useless at cards, but the bank was well on its way.

Marilyn Monroe: Did you believe the theory about Bobby Kennedy sleeping with Monroe just before she died? Really, it was like this. William Roemer, a former FBI agent, says wiretap evidence suggests that in the week before she died Monroe had sex simultaneously with Frank Sinatra and Sam Giancana, the mafia boss. Rubbish, says Sinatra's public relations agent. So who didn't sleep with Monroe just before she died? And how did she find the time to take an overdose?

Correct answer: Boo-boo-be-doop.

So Who Did Kill Kennedy? A lone lunatic? The FBI? Mafia hoodlums? A survey found that 56 per cent suspected some sort of conspiracy. Only 19 per cent agreed with the Warren Commission's conclusion that Lee Harvey Oswald acted alone. A Washington select committee said there was a 95 per cent probability of a conspiracy. Everyone thinks big in America, but Stone thinks bigger than most. He blames everybody: the FBI, the CIA, the army, the media, the navy, anti-Castro Cubans, the military-industrial complex, and the hawks in Kennedy's own government, apparently angry because Kennedy was about to withdraw all Americans from Vietnam. **Correct answer:** John Kennedy never died. It was all just a bad dream Bobby had in the shower.

JFK, opens on January 24.

All the president's men? Government hawks were suspected of wanting to kill Kennedy

Auntie takes on the agony

Margaret Salmon, embodiment of the BBC's new purge on racism and sexism, has a novel approach to the vexing business of finding a meaningful definition of sexual harassment: she does not try.

"Why do we need it?" she asks, coolly. "People actually have a very clear idea of what they mean by it. We can all find examples. It's only around the periphery that definitions blur. The core of the problem we all agree."

Well aware that what one woman may take as a compliment can be insulting to another, and of the voyeuristic interest that the subject arouses, Mrs Salmon is perhaps wise to take refuge in generalities. For the one student who had her bottom pinched by George Moore, and said she felt "rather honoured that my behind should have drawn the attention of the great master of English prose", there were probably a dozen others who would have reported him to the senate.

"I am talking about any sort of behaviour — sexual or racially driven or religious harassment — that is unacceptable to the person on the receiving end," Mrs Salmon explains.

Her manifesto goes further. As the head of personnel at the BBC, she has supplied all 25,000 employees with a booklet telling them how to make complaints and urging them to report anything from blatant jokes to demands for sexual favours. It says: "Non-verbal conduct such as the display of certain pictures, pin-ups or written material can also make people feel uncomfortable, can cause offence and can be regarded as a form of harassment."

Mrs Salmon is, apparently, quite unusual in her approach. A recent survey, conducted by the University of Manchester's Institute of Science and Technology among 110 British organisations, reports that 88 per cent of personnel directors had not issued a policy statement on management's attitude to sexual harassment.

How big, one wonders, is the problem

Why the BBC's staff need a booklet on unacceptable behaviour



Almost evangelical Margaret Salmon

within the BBC, where women make up 42 per cent of the workforce? Here, Mrs Salmon, becomes almost evangelical. "It doesn't matter how big it is. It exists. It is the perception of the individual which is important. Obviously, we've got quite a lot of anecdotal information. But not the sort of anecdotes she wishes to discuss publicly."

She is patient about the overriding interest in her campaign against sexual impropriety at work, which forms just a small proportion of her work in the field of equal opportunities. She took up the job ten months ago — a position that made her the first woman member of the BBC's main board.

But the campaign was long overdue. The unions claim the BBC had ignored the issue of sexual harassment for years. "We could only take complaints so far," Christina Driver, the industrial

officer specialising in equal opportunities, says, "because usually the harasser would be a senior person and there was no protection against victimisation. So although we knew there was a problem — the same names would keep coming up — the management was able to deny it because there were no formal complaints."

One producer, she says, made passes at a woman who froze him out. His response was to complain that she was incompetent and lacking in team spirit. "Under the new code it will be possible to fire a warning shot across the bows of a man who is being offensive."

Mrs Salmon, aged 44, says she is lucky never to have been a victim of sexual harassment. "Maybe I've just been fortunate in the organisations I've worked with [W.H. Smith, Debenhams, Burton's]. In the retail trade they were used to employing women."

She was less fortunate in her husband's choice of timing last week. No sooner had she launched her campaign than he was quoted as saying that he thought rigid, highly-publicised complaints procedures unnecessary and possibly detrimental to happy office life.

Michael Salmon, aged 46, a management consultant, said: "If someone has done a good job I might want to give them a kiss to show appreciation. That could be interpreted as harassment."

His wife purported to be unfazed. "What he said goes to the heart of the debate. It is a perfectly legitimate point of view and I have had many people express it. Where I disagree is on the extent of the problem. Maybe it isn't a big problem in the organisations he is familiar with, but I don't care how big or small the problem is. I know it exists and has to be taken seriously."

Was she discomfited by her husband's attitude? Not at all. "But perhaps he will be more guarded in future."

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Exit, Liz

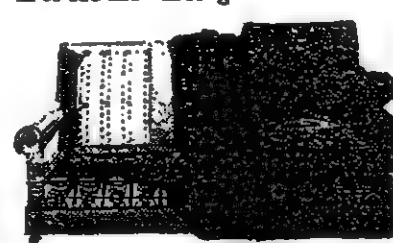
ONE of the most glamorous last duties in Britain of Liz Tilberis, the outgoing *Vogue* editor, before she takes up her

editorship of *Harper's Bazaar* in America, will be to co-chair the royal gala of the film *The Prince of Tides*, which will take place in the presence of the Princess of Wales on Tuesday, February 18, for the benefit of the AIDS Crisis Trust. Admission to the premiere is a mere £5 — but the "suggested donation" will bring that to a minimum of £25, and up to £135 for the best seats, from which, presumably, the princess may be seen. Tickets will be allocated on a "first come, first served" basis. Ticket application forms may be obtained from: AIDS Crisis Trust, 38 Ebury Street, London SW1 W0LU, telephone 071-730 0103.

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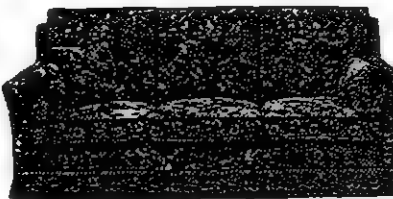
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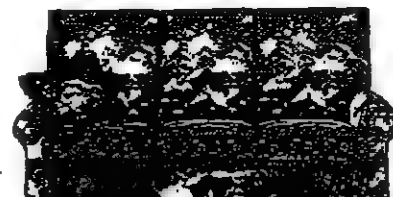
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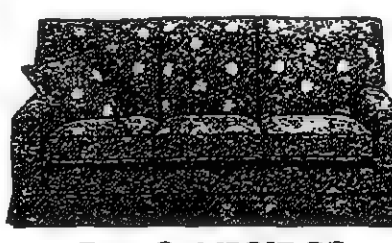
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Classical culture

Richard Morrison
on common sense in
the arts curriculum

For the moment at least, school music teachers have been saved from the prospect of giving lessons about reggae, ragas and Rigoletto in quick succession, or possibly simultaneously. Art teachers will not need to brush up on "Aboriginal dream maps". After a year of worry and wrangling about how music and art are taught in state schools, the National Curriculum Council took a step towards sanity this week. It reasserted the primacy of the Western cultural heritage in the British school curriculum, and so overturned the views of the educational "experts" on its own music and art working groups.

Last year, these experts fudged the decision of what children should study, in favour of a wimpy series of "anything goes" options (Michael Jackson, for instance, might be as "valid" a subject as Beethoven), coupled to a tired old "self-expression" educational philosophy. Musical literacy, the key to nearly all performance and understanding, would no longer rigorously be taught; children would magically "discover" literacy through their own compositions.

Now the council has administered some old-fashioned thwacks across the experts' knuckles. The art working party, it says, paid too little attention to Leonardo da Vinci, Michelangelo and other Western artists believed to be of merit. Similarly, the music working party undersold the vast heritage of European classical music, following the false premise that if you offer pop and rap, children might follow.

In short, the council's conclusions reinforce the feeling that, to some extent, the working groups were hijacked by the race-relations and equal-opportunities lobbies. Fashionable, "politically correct" views were preferred to proven educational methods. Educationists put Polytechnic nose-flute music on a par with J.S. Bach, even if they did not know the first thing about Polytechnic music.

Predictably, the National Association of Schoolmasters/Union of Women Teachers decries the council's stance as "over the top"; the council has not considered that "hundreds of thousands of our schoolchildren are not of European descent". But why should that matter? Teaching is about opening doors to new knowledge, not reinforcing ghetto mentalities. The British cannot go on forever carrying the old burden of colonial guilt about "imposing" European culture on the world. Children should be taught in the tradition teachers best understand.

Others have been horrified by the targets set for different age-groups: seven-year-olds, for instance, are expected to "listen to and talk about" Tchaikovsky and Mozart, and "respond to" Henry Moore and Leonardo da Vinci (Jackson Pollock, thank goodness, is reserved for teenagers). If you went into the street, the doubters ask, how many adults would you find who could respond cogently to a Moore sculpture or a Stravinsky concerto? This, however, is precisely the point. Millions are effectively cut off from appreciating classical music or great painting and sculpture because they have not been shown how to enjoy the arts at school, and so feel inadequate to meet their challenges. Consequently, the serious arts are regarded as elitist, and considered too "divisive" to be taught. And so the vicious circle of exclusion continues.

The great heritage of Western culture is a treasure-chest that each generation discovers anew. Why do educationists conspire to hide the key from our children? We are turning out school-leavers who are philistine through no fault of their own. The curriculum council's brave decisions come not a moment too soon.

The Maxwell brothers have blatantly defied Parliament's authority, argues Lord St John of Fawsley

There is no right to silence



Silent testimony: Kevin (left) and Ian Maxwell on Monday

tions to them from a non-party, parliamentary point of view. In doing this, the committees are not sensationalising themselves, nor looking for publicity; they are exercising Parliament's informing function in an effective way, so as to concentrate the mind of the nation swiftly on issues of contemporary importance.

The decision of the Social Security Committee to investigate the Maxwell affair fits precisely within this principle. The pension rights of many hundreds of people are directly involved. Indirectly involved are millions of other people who until now have had unshaken confidence in the security of their private pension arrangements. If the committee had not investigated the matter, it might justifiably have been accused of dereliction of duty.

The right of Members of Parliament to investigate matters of public concern is unlimited under our constitution. It is equal in range and scope to their right of

freedom of speech, and both rights exist not for the gratification of egos, but to protect the liberties and rights of British subjects. As part of Parliament, select committees are equally unfettered and are subject only to such limitations as the Speaker interpreting the conventions of the House may judge it right to impose.

So in refusing to answer questions about their activities, the Maxwell brothers are directly challenging the status and authority of Parliament. They have been charged with no criminal offence and cannot therefore claim the benefit of the *sub judice* rule.

If they felt that interrogation by the committee would be unfair,

they could have approached the matter in a quite different way. They could have asked the select committee to exclude the television cameras; they could have requested the exclusion of members of the press; they could have asked for part of their evidence to be kept out of the report — and have thus avoided thwarting the committee's authority.

What then can the committee do to enforce its will? Once again the constitutional principle is clear. A select committee has never had any power to enforce a sanction such as imprisonment or other penalty. That belongs to the House of Commons as a whole. The chairman of the select committee can now go to the floor of the House and put it to the Speaker that in the opinion of the committee a contempt of the House has been committed. The Speaker will then consider the matter, and if he decides there is a *prima facie* case that such an offence may have been

committed, he must give any motion put down by the chairman priority over all other business. The Whips offices have nothing to do with this: it is a matter for Parliament as a whole.

A motion might take the form of a declaration that a contempt of the House had been committed or that the matter should be referred to the committee of privileges. Alternatively the Speaker might refer the matter straight away to the committee, with a request that a reply be made within a limited period of time.

That is the constitutional position, but what should Frank Field and his committee actually do? In my opinion they must without delay raise the matter on the floor of the House. They must demand that Parliament assert its right to question any citizen in the land from the greatest to the smallest. If they fail to do so, they will be delivering a body-blow not only to the select committee system, but to parliamentary government itself.

The author is master of Emmanuel College, Cambridge.

First hurdle for the presidency

George Bush's toughest opponents in New Hampshire will not be his rival candidates, says Peter Stothard

President Bush will today tread cautiously into the lair of Mrs Mackey Loeb, the wheelchair-bound widow who owns New Hampshire's only state-wide newspaper. Since 1952, no one has become president without first winning the New Hampshire primary, and next month's result will be especially critical for him.

In the past few weeks, *The Manchester Union Leader* has dubbed Mr Bush dumb, a betrayer and the great pretender to conservative values, while strongly backing Patrick Buchanan, his Republican challenger. Mr Buchanan's support has now risen to 30 per cent among Republican voters in the state, only 16 points behind the president.

The power — in many cases amounting to monopoly — of the regional press in a country without a national press should not be underestimated, although the *Leader* has only a share in New Hampshire's king-making. It is rivalled by Manchester's state-wide television station, WMUR, which practises a studied neutrality owing more to Lord Reith than William Loeb. Television advertisements are growing in importance, even in a state where voters take personal contact with potential presidents for granted.

Mrs Loeb's most recent onslaught on the president is considered here as less severe than some earlier attacks. In 1980, for example, the *Union Leader* described Mr Bush as a "spoiled little rich kid". And that was kinder than "dopey Dwight" Ford, Nelson "Rocky the wife swapper" Rockefeller, or Henry Kissinger "the Kike". But, as local primary-watchers point out, the election is still a month away, and Mr Bush has yet to arrive.

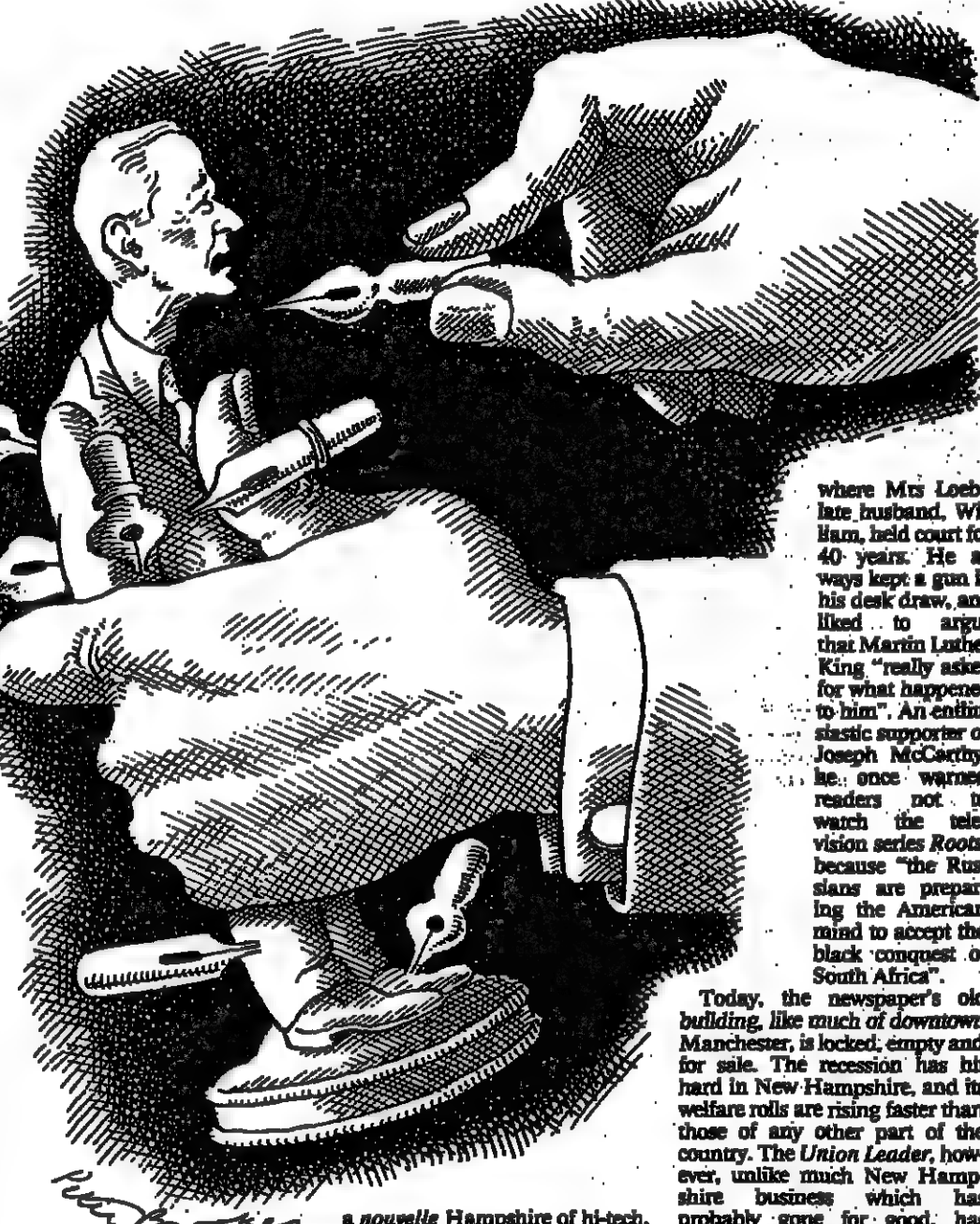
In the president's modest New Hampshire headquarters — a vacant downtown shop between the Saly Dog bar and Kim's

Acupuncture "Relief from Pain" Body Balance — workers are philosophical about the enmity of the paper that most voters here read. You can win if the *Leader* is against you; you can win if it is for you; but you can't win if it ignores you," says Mrs Gerry Porter, who wears her "Bush 88" watch like a charm against evil spirits. "I'm afraid that Mrs Loeb is a solemnly behind our opponent," Mrs Porter continues, with characteristic New England understatement.

While gently trashing Mr Bush (on Monday, Mrs Loeb called his Japan trip "a lemon"), the *Union Leader* has been vigorously promoting Mr Buchanan, whose speechwriting and policy-making efforts for presidents Nixon and Reagan it has long praised, and whose conservative editorials it once used to print. Indeed without the backing of *The Manchester Union Leader*, Mr Buchanan would probably still be working as a journalist.

Mrs Loeb sees the long-shot challenger as just the sort of courageous, gentlemanly, anti-tax, anti-abortion, anti-Japanese president the country needs. Flattering colour photographs of Mr Buchanan have dominated the front pages; he was even there on the day that the paper's dearest wish in its 129-year history came to pass and the Soviet Union died.

Mr Bush, by contrast, is caricatured, with his face obliterated on television like the victim in the Kennedy rape trial: "Maybe I was a little reckless, maybe I should have been more conservative, but that's no excuse: Patrick Buchanan assaulted me," the president is depicted as saying.



New Hampshire is an old-fashioned state, seemingly becoming more so by the day. Four years ago, when its backing for a "read my lips: no new taxes" message propelled Mr Bush on his journey to the White House, the economy was booming. It was

a nouvelle Hampshire of hi-tech, low-tax dreams, in which the *Union Leader's* backing of another, conservative outsider, Pete Du Pont, seemed curmudgeonly and quaint.

The newspaper (motto: "There is nothing so powerful as truth") was then still housed in its old red-brick colonial, city-centre offices,

where Mrs Loeb's late husband, William, held court for 40 years. He always kept a gun in his desk drawer, and liked to argue that Martin Luther King "really asked for what happened to him". An enthusiastic supporter of Joseph McCarthy, he once warned readers not to watch the television series *Roots*, because "the Russians are preparing the American mind to accept the black conquest of South Africa".

Today, the newspaper's old building, like much of downtown Manchester, is locked, empty and for sale. The recession has hit hard in New Hampshire, and its welfare rolls are rising faster than those of any other part of the country. The *Union Leader*, however, unlike much New Hampshire business, which has probably gone for good, has moved to spectacular new offices on the city's edge. Among the elegantly framed photographs is one of Mrs Loeb discussing affairs of state with Ronald Reagan, her wheelchair decked with the stars and stripes. Business is not exactly booming, but political confidence is high. Mrs

Loeb is a kinder, gentler, more revered figure to many, she can plan her campaign against the president from a castle of which any giant-killer could be proud.

New Hampshire, which has lost much in the past five years, clings all the more tenaciously to its self-legislated right to hold the nation's first primary and so provide the all-important momentum, the appearance of doing better than expected, which can push a candidate to ultimate success. Originally the primary was early so that farmers could vote at their annual town meetings before the thaw made the roads impassable; by now it has become a source of enormous national power. This year, with the earlier Iowa caucuses made almost irrelevant by the inevitable victory of local senator Tom Harkin, its influence is all the greater.

George Bush will be all too aware that New Hampshire can launch unknowns into sudden stardom and hurt the over-confident. The careers of Eugene McCarthy in 1968, George McGovern in 1972 and Gary Hart in 1984 were made here. Those of Lyndon Johnson, even though he did not officially fight the 1968 primary, and Edmund Muskie, who famously wept in front of the *Union Leader* building after 420 column inches of attacks from William Loeb in 1972, died here. That is why there is a "Bush blind", for which volunteers have been asked to sign their names, and it is why the president is here today.

Mr Bush has always been afraid of his right wing. As vice-president, in December 1985, he tried to appease the *Union Leader* by speaking at a Washington dinner in posthumous praise of William Loeb, his tormentor. Patrick Buchanan, who was in the audience that night, was one of the first people invited to dinner at the White House when Mr Bush became president. Whatever happens before February 18, neither Mrs Loeb nor Mr Buchanan is likely soon to re-pay the favour.



...and moreover
ALAN COREN

Like most of you, I can remember when you could go to Surinam on a Saturday night, have a slap-up fish dinner for two, see a film, get your hair cut, buy a cigar, and still have change out of vif en twintig gulden.

No longer. The vif en twintig gulden note is now worthless. Indeed, its very valuelessness has passed into folkloric decision: pause at any skipping-ropes in the playgrounds of Paramaribo, and you will hear even the tiniest children chanting, "Vif en twintig gulden baked in a pie!"

Things are as bad in Mozambique. Until quite recently, if you flashed a cem escudo note in a Maputo department store, assistants would flock. Stick a cemmie on the counter, and you could walk out with an entire spring outfit, plus matching tuffer. They would probably chuck in a pair of designer espadrilles. Not today, though. If you tried it today, they would put an arm-lock on you and call the bogies.

I have one such note before me as I write. But despite the fact that it has D Administrator written on it as well as D Governador, the signatures of these two pillars of Mozambican probity are now, I fear, quite meaningless. What it ought to have written on it is D Tempora and D Mores, because the only way you can get this 100-escudo note these days is by pulling it off the page of *The Sunday Times* with which it was, last weekend, distributed free.

Just as Surinam's vif en twintig gulden item came gummed bakshee, next day, to *The Times*.

Quite why our two greatest newspapers should have decided to do this I am not prepared to discuss, since it is generally unwise to put Mr Murdoch's good nature to the test, and I should not wish to find myself facing a golden handshake consisting of banknotes issued by the Confederate States of America. It may be that my employer, in this election year, is offering some sly subtextual advice to Norman Lamont, it may be that one of his acolytes — currently spreadeagled in the Gobi — recently sold some Murdoch company to a seafaring man with one leg who hopped into his office with a big tin cashbox and Rupert is now making the most of a bad job by promotional redistribution, it may even be that, as far as the MGN pension fund is concerned, we still don't know the half of it, but whatever the reason, a vast amount of fiduciary infirmity has this week been unloaded, willy-nilly, on to you, me, and countless other top people.

Now, in the normal course of events, a lot of stuff falls out of our newspapers — offers of hand-brewn Bavarian chiming-clocks, of mobile-home insurance, of titchy silver Bugattis, of cut-price windsurfing weekends, of AA porcelain rodents, of handsome socket-sets, of rotten old bestsellers by the clubload — and all such glossy blandishments may cheerily be binned without a second

thought, unless it be for the ozone layer directly above the council incinerator.

But I am unable to do that with money. Throwing money away is like throwing money away. Put it down to anal retentiveness, or to the endemic insecurity of hackery, or to a deprived childhood — when I was a kid, we were so poor we couldn't even afford jokes about how poor we were; every day I had to walk ten miles to school without a hot wisecrack — but the cause is immaterial compared with the effect.

There is just something about taking a mint crisp, 100-escudo note, holding its delicate tracery against the light to check the watermark, and then crumpling it up and bunging into Sunday's embers. Why I was able to do that with the expensive newspaper which bore it but not with the worthless thing it bore, who can say? Fiscal totalitarianism is an arcane Johnny.

So that night I put the cem escudos carefully in a desk drawer, and on Monday I laid the vif en twintig carefully alongside it, not because I hoped that time's whirling might reinstate them and allow me to nip down to Mozambique and Surinam and begin chucking the stuff about like a drunken sailor, but because there was no alternative.

Not any escape. Next Sunday, I see, I am to receive no fewer than militants, news which will stagger Peruvian exiles unaltered to currency's whims. Back in the days when an inti was an inti, that was real money.

Gathering storm

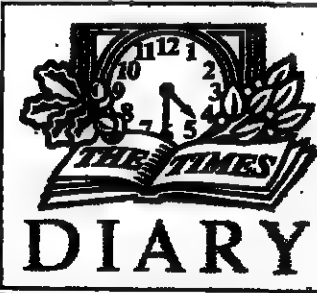
CHURCHILL'S former bodyguard has hit out furiously at the BBC's four-part documentary life which begins tonight. In the final episode of the series, Wendy Reeves, the so-called "Champsagne sex kitten" talks about her relationship with the statesman to whom, she has claimed, she "never said no".

Mrs Reeves is "cashing in on Sir Winston", says Edmund Murray, who guarded Churchill from 1950 until his death in 1965. "Mrs Reeves is distorting the truth. She is making Sir Winston into some sort of pimp."

Murray always accompanied Churchill to La Pausa in the south of France during the three year period when Sir Winston stayed with the Texan ex-model and her lover the Hungarian financier and millionaire, Emery Reves. Even at the time, Sergeant Murray was called upon by the family to deny gossiping reports in the press. Now he has come to the family's defence once more. Murray says: "Mrs Reeves makes innuendos about a sexual relationship. I know that is not true. Sir Winston was an old man." Murray is also upset by Mrs Reeves' dismissal of Lady Churchill as "cold" and her description of the Churchills' relationship as no more than "a myth of a marriage".

He also denies that Lady Churchill was a frequent guest of the Reves. She only stayed twice and that was when Sir Winston caught "flu in that cold, soulless house."

Marin Gilbert, author of the series *Churchill: A Life*, is keen to stress that the BBC is not simply throwing dirt. "It's a rather moving episode about Churchill enjoying the company of a woman he described as 'young, beautiful and kind'. Is that salacious?"



Politicians are used to being doostrepped by journalists, but the roles were reversed yesterday. As journalists emerged from the department of health in Whitehall after hearing William Waldegrave wax lyrical about the success of the government's health service reforms, there was Robin Cook on the pavement, button-holing anyone who would listen with instant reaction.

PC WPC

THE hard-pressed home secretary, Kenneth Baker, could do without any further discomfort at the moment, but he may live to regret agreeing to address the European conference of policewomen, at Bramshill in March. No doubt the female guardians of law and order will listen politely to what Baker has to say. But Euro-police-women will be far more interested in the woman who has become the Home Office's biggest embarrassment: Alison Halford, the assistant chief constable of Merseyside, now suspended for a second time and who is alleging sex discrimination in being overlooked for promotion.

Halford has become the cause célèbre of the European Network of Policewomen, which is organising the conference at the police staff college. Two workshops en-

titled "Going to Law" have been arranged to advise other delegates how to sue their bosses in similar discrimination cases. With many of those bosses present, including the home secretary and an army of British chief constables, Halford herself is also expected to make an appearance, and is guaranteed a heroine's welcome.

British enigma

ALMOST universally accused of hypocrisy for presenting Labour's "Buy British" party political broadcast last week, David Puttnam can at least claim that he practises what he preaches. He has teamed up with Bill Forsyth to rescue an ambitious British film project. His intervention is timely. After failing for two years to find



the finance for *Being Human*, his first film script since 1984, Forsyth, creator of *Gregory's Girl* and *Local Hero*, was on the verge of abandoning the project. Puttnam's company, Enigma Films, has now put up the money, and Puttnam himself will produce. He is, not however, taking his "Buy British" message too far. American actor Robin Williams has been signed for the leading part.

Dennis Skinner will be absent from next week's "Desert Island Discs" 50th birthday party. Everyone still living who has ever appeared on the programme was invited, but Skinner has declined, declaring: "I don't believe in organised happiness." Nevertheless he has happy memories of his appearances. One of the eight discs Skinner requested was a record made in honour of Arthur Scargill, the first line of which ran: "It was in 1984 when the **** hit the fan". Strangely the usually comprehensive BBC record library claimed not to have the recording. Undeterred Skinner arrived in the studio bearing his own copy.

Menu of reforms

DUNCAN NICHOL, chief executive of the NHS, recently returned to his old stamping ground in Bradford, as the guest of honour at an old boys' dinner. But any illusions Nichol may have had about how his old school wished to honour one of its more famous sons were swiftly dispelled when he picked up the menu. There on the back, to his astonishment, was printed a five-verse poem written by Ken Harwood, head of English at Bradford Grammar, satirising the government's NHS reforms, which Nichol has spearheaded.

The last verse gives the flavour: Meanwhile the NHS lies sick, Victim of party politics. Let's operate before it's dead: Let William Waldegrave survive. Upon a nurse's pay, and give His chief executive the wealth To find for every case a bed And bring the patient back to health. The poet has no second thoughts. "I don't know what the fuss is about. This was just a satire. My verse complimented Mr Nichol. Spare us the schoolmaster's scorn when he is being critical."



BUSH'S DOMESTIC TROUBLE

George Bush is still well-placed to be re-elected American president in November, but it is no longer a certainty. Not before time, he starts campaigning today in New Hampshire, the site of the first primary in five weeks' time. For the past few months he has been mired in a political swamp, sucked down by mishap at every step.

His visit to Japan, designed to create "jobs, jobs, jobs" for Americans, was a public relations disaster. It was not just the personal humiliation of his collapse at last Wednesday's official banquet — though, at 67, he cannot afford too many other questions about his health and stamina. He has also faced widespread criticism at home.

Protectionists complain he has failed to win any significant concessions from the Japanese while free-traders accuse him of special pleading on behalf of inefficient American motor companies. Even the anniversary this week of the start of the Gulf war has been less a celebration of military triumph than a reminder of the ambiguous nature of that victory while President Saddam Hussein is still in power.

A new Gallup survey for *USA Today* and CNN shows that Mr Bush's approval rating as president has fallen from a peak of 89 per cent just after the end of the war to 46 per cent. The proportion favouring Mr Bush against an unnamed Democratic challenger has dropped from 53 to 40 per cent last November to just 47 to 45 per cent now.

Mr Bush still receives high ratings for his handling of foreign affairs, but voters are less impressed and less interested. Following the end of the Cold War and the disappearance of the Soviet Union, the American public has begun to turn inward. It is still a gross exaggeration to talk about a revival of isolationism, but the slogan of "America First" — proclaimed both by some conservative Republicans and by liberal Democrats — has a growing appeal with the economy apparently stuck in recession.

Mr Bush has appeared out of touch with these concerns, more than two-thirds of

voters believing he should spend more time on domestic issues. The president needs to present a domestic strategy offering the hope of sustained growth. The Federal Reserve Board has cut interest rates sharply, and Mr Bush's advisers are preparing a package of tax cuts and investment incentives for his State of the Union message on January 28. Further cuts in defence spending are being planned to produce a peace dividend from the end of the Cold War that can be seen to be of benefit to ordinary Americans.

Unlike John Major's tight timetable in Britain, Mr Bush still has plenty of time for recovery to be established. Alan Greenspan, the Fed chairman, talked last Friday of the American economy being stalled rather than in a second leg of recession. So consumer, and voter, confidence could be recovering by the end of the summer.

Nor should Mr Bush's resilience be underrated. As his communications director said this week "George Bush has been declared dead more times than Elvis Presley." Twice during the 1988 election his campaign appeared to be in serious trouble and twice he recovered strongly. This time Mr Bush is assured of the Republican nomination, even though Pat Buchanan, his challenger from the nationalist right, could do embarrassingly well in the strongly conservative state of New Hampshire. On the Democratic side, Governor Bill Clinton of Arkansas and Senator Tom Harkin of Iowa are ahead of the pack (now down to five) but neither has shown a nationwide appeal.

There is no reason yet why Mr Bush should not bounce back. Ronald Reagan only had a slightly higher approval rating at this stage of the 1984 campaign. But a good showing by Mr Buchanan next month could produce a shift in Mr Bush's approach towards economic nationalism, to appease the demands for protection coming from both ends of the political spectrum. Mr Bush's current political difficulties may have costs for the rest of the world which last much longer than this year's campaign.

BUTTRESS TO THE LAW

In his *Theory of Moral Sentiments*, Adam Smith said that justice "is the main pillar which holds up the entire edifice". The Adam Smith Institute highlights this quotation in the introduction to its report today in praise of the latest legal vogue, called alternative dispute resolution. But its enthusiasm for "ADR" (as legal jargon has it, rest less upon the Scottish high-mindedness of its mentor than upon ADR's impeccable free-market credentials. Human ingenuity, bred of profit-motive out of human need, is spontaneously filling a gap that the state system of justice had neglected. The ghost of Adam Smith can only smile.

Courts are inefficient and costly. The adversarial system amplifies grievances, intensifies compromise, and therefore maximises lawyers' bills. Going to law is attractive only to lawyers and those of their clients with bottomless purses, either poor people on unlimited legal aid or rich corporations or individuals to whom money is no object. Even then, the point may well be reached where exasperated principals, feeling more and more like litigants in *Jarndyce v. Jarndyce*, ask their legal advisers "Surely there must be a better way".

What fuelled the earliest experiments at ADR in the United States was a growing awareness of "the pathology of litigation", as American lawyers termed a propensity for which their race is world famous. When they went to trial, legal actions often ignored the underlying commercial realities, mainly the fact that the parties had to go on living and doing business with each other whatever the outcome. The legal system seemed designed to emphasise confrontation, with a winner and a loser and consequent bad feeling. What was lacking was an alternative to the adversarial system that would emphasise solution-finding by informal negotiation and conciliation.

Since its American origin ADR has struck a chord in Britain, where there was already a tradition of quasi-judicial arbitration. The most recent grafts onto that tree are the industrial tribunals, meant to be accessible

to lay people without professional assistance. But lawyers have a way of taking over anything designed to be quick, informal and "lay", and milking it for their own purposes. Today few would dare go before an industrial tribunal without benefit of a lawyer. Lawyers, naturally, volunteer their services as third parties in ADR systems too; but there is nothing intrinsic to ADR that gives them a monopoly. Where the dispute is financial, an accountant can help, where it concerns property, a surveyor.

The Adam Smith Institute's endorsement of ADR as economically correct will help the system's acceptability in free-market boardrooms, as the Bar Council's endorsement has already done in barristers' chambers. But some of the most important blot on British justice are those which deprive ordinary people of their legal rights by delays and prohibitive costs. Most conspicuous are those areas of law not covered by legal aid, where rights remain the prerogative only of the rich who can afford to claim them.

Libel is one notorious area outside legal aid. Lord Justice Neill's report on defamation last year praised the proposal, put to his enquiry on behalf of *The Times*, for the ADR settlement of suitable libel cases where both parties choose it. This would extend the search for a solution to readers' grievances beyond the scope of the internal "ombudsman" system most newspapers already operate. A scheme is now being discussed by national newspaper legal advisers. ADR is ideal for such conflicts. It would close the gap between the few who may win large damages because they can afford to fight a legal action and the many who have no prospect of any recompense because they cannot.

Technically, ADR is closer to mediation than arbitration, for the purpose of the intervening neutral third party is not to impose a settlement but to suggest one. The search is not for a "right" answer in accordance with abstract legal principles, but for a compromise both sides can live with. ADR may not quite be a pillar of the system, but it makes a useful flying buttress.

LATE SNAG AHEAD

Passengers who arrived in Exeter finding when their London train pulled in more than two hours late on January 2 will have been heartened yesterday to hear they had won a free travel voucher to cover the cost of their ticket and a refund for their taxi fares. Other commuters eagerly await similar action as a result of the citizen's charter, under which such compensation will be compulsory. But before they cheer, they should reflect. Is this payment really in their interests?

The new compensation scheme could apparently cost British Rail £270 million a year. Will the money come from government? Not a chance. The cash will have to be found either from existing investment, or directly from the passenger through higher ticket prices. Either way, the passengers will bear the cost, in lower safety standards, shabbier trains, a poorer service or more expensive tickets.

The last is the most likely. Fares will rise by more than they would otherwise have done, to cover the compensation costs. That means each passenger on each train journey will in effect be paying an insurance premium to BR. If the train arrives on time, that premium will be lost, just as a travel insurance premium vanishes when a holiday is uneventful. If the worst happens, and the train is badly delayed, the passenger will be able to make a claim.

But if BR is to charge the passengers extra for this, as logically it should, how is its scheme any different from the insurance that

people often take out when they go on holiday? It differs only in that air travel insurance is voluntary. If an aeroplane arrives seriously late, people who are insured can claim compensation from insurance companies; those who are not, cannot. But the latter have at least chosen not to spend money to protect against that risk. On BR, even those passengers to whom an hour's delay is neither here nor there will still be charged.

Passengers have different interests. Those who are pottering up to London to spend a day shopping care less about punctuality than commuters. They will resent paying a compulsory premium on top of their normal ticket. Choice could surely be introduced. Customers could decide at the ticket office whether they want to pay the premium, rather than punters placing bets can choose to pay betting tax in advance.

If British Rail became more punctual in order to reduce the amount of compensation it had to pay out, those passengers not covered would become what economists call free riders: gaining the benefit of greater punctuality without paying the cost. But there is some danger that the opposite might happen. BR may calculate that it would be cheaper to let trains run late routinely, and pay out moderate compensation, than to spend the extra needed to improve punctuality. Those for whom delays do not matter much would be delighted to win the refunds. Commuters, though, would be even worse off than they already are.

Labour's plans for tax, employment and insurance

From Mr Peter V. Facey

Sir, The Labour party assures us that "no one earning less than £20,000 will pay more income tax". But the careful use of the word "earning" conceals the fact that Labour plans to introduce a 9 per cent surcharge on investment income. I am under pensionable age and live on dividend income of £18,000, which comes from savings I made when I was younger and paying top rates of income tax. Under Labour my income-tax bill will increase by 25 per cent.

Labour justifies this impost on the grounds of fairness: since employees have to pay a 9 per cent National Insurance contribution (NIC), investors should pay a similar amount. But the employee gets specific benefits in return for NIC payments, including unemployment, sickness and invalidity benefits, maternity pay, and retirement pension. None of these is available to investors. How can it be fair to pay equal contributions for unequal benefits?

When I recently put this point in a letter to John Smith, the shadow Chancellor, he replied that he was unable to add to the above justification. He could have said that investors get certain tax breaks that are not available to employees (such as personal equity plans, business expansion schemes and the capital gains tax exemption); this would have been a good argument if it were not for the fact that Labour intends to slash them.

For a party which plans to resurrect British industry by getting more and better investment, cutting the return to savers is indeed a master stroke.

Yours faithfully,
P. V. FACEY,
134 Sandyhurst Lane,
Ashford, Kent.
January 8.

From Mr Geoffrey Brown

Sir, John Smith says he does not understand why National Insurance contributions should stop at just above the £20,000 mark. He has obviously not been let into the secret that these contributions are not supposed to be a tax, often levied on the basis of ability to pay, as opposed to an insurance premium, charged at a rate reflecting the risk and the benefit to be received.

Is it not time to stop this silly pretence and amalgamate the tax and National Insurance contributions? The administrative savings would be considerable, the electorate would be able to understand the implications of changes in the fiscal system more readily and comparisons with our trading partners would be easier.

Mr Lamont might like to consider

Annigoni portrait

From Lady Egerton

Sir, Your Diary reports (January 9, 11) on the Fishmongers' Company's reluctance to lend their Annigoni portrait of the Queen to the forthcoming exhibition at the Victoria and Albert Museum marking the 40th anniversary of her accession to the throne.

Their refusal has meant that we were asked and have agreed to lend our copy (by Guardian) which hangs in the entrance hall of our residence.

The Fishmongers cite the possibility of damage as one of the reasons for not lending the picture. If damage is a risk from the Fishmongers' Hall to the V&A, what about the risks in transit from and back to Rome?

Yours faithfully,
CAROLINE EGERTON,
British Embassy, Rome.
January 13.

Splinter groups

From Major Oliver Crocombe

Sir, Could we perhaps mark the 150th anniversary on March 13 this year of the death of that inventive and, needless to say, ill-rewarded officer, Lieutenant-General Henry Shrapnel (1761-1842), by persuading media men and women not to refer to every metal splinter by his name?

The habit is almost as irritating as the inevitable reference to every naval, military or air force barracks, station, camp, depot, headquarters, college, school, office or whatever as a "base".

Yours faithfully,
OLIVER CROCOMBE,
Castle House,
Enmore,
Bridgwater, Somerset.
January 11.

'Weaving the Web'

From Mr K. P. Platt

Sir, I fear that Bishop David Konstant's letter (January 8) will do little to allay the concern felt by Catholic parents, parish priests, and not a few bishops, regarding the use of *Weaving the Web* as resource books for religious education in Catholic schools. He both misunderstands the criticisms of the books and greatly exaggerates the support that the Vatican Congregation of the Clergy gives to his views.

Their letter, dated November 19 of last year, was, in fact, addressed to myself and not, as readers might assume, to the education department of the Congregation of Bishops. In no way does it approve of *Weaving the Web*, but merely allows that it may be

used as part of the religious education programme. Most emphatically it states that "The emphasis is on the word 'part'".

Two points, I feel, need to be made: that had Rome intended to approve of *Weaving the Web*, it would have written to the Congregation of Bishops and not to a layman, and that all indications are that the books have not even been submitted to or seen by the Congregation of the Clergy.

The bishop writes that the purpose of *Weaving the Web* is to offer a resource for teachers and pupils and adds also "for people of all ages". He fails to explain why such basic

abolishing National Insurance contributions, reducing the single personal allowance to £3,000 and raising the basic rate of income tax to 33 per cent. This gives a bonus of up to £179 on incomes up to £20,300 and will claw back at the rate of 8 per cent on the next income band up to £27,000 — i.e. a maximum £357, taking into account the earlier savings.

We would thus be left with two tax rates: 33 per cent and 40 per cent levied from £3,000 and £27,000 respectively. The current employers' National Insurance contributions would be collected by the Inland Revenue as the more properly named "payroll tax".

Of course, some of the major beneficiaries of this scheme will be charities in receipt of covenant income. The present illusion of a 25 per cent basic rate denies them their proper reward.

Yours faithfully,
GEOFFREY BROWN,
98 Pond Road, SE3.
January 13.

From the Chairman of the National Family Trust

Sir, Your leader, "Basic tax principles" (January 11), has point, but fails to acknowledge that a simple increase in adult tax allowances beyond the rate of inflation, albeit better than reducing the standard rate of tax, would do little or nothing for families. Children, the incapacitated and those who care for them would remain grossly disenfranchised.

Radical and creative reforms have become necessary, involving merging the tax and benefits systems. That process aims to make net family income reflect the responsibility which householders carry for their dependants, and it should include new community work and training schemes in exchange for enhanced benefits. That could reduce unemployment, eliminate the poverty trap and allow social spending to enhance self-esteem and family cohesion.

Social commitments supported by financial incentives is the principle which you should encourage the political parties to debate at this time, not minor adjustments which do nothing for children and families.

Yours sincerely,
RICHARD WHITFIELD,
Chairman,
National Family Trust,
101 Queen Victoria Street, EC4.
January 13.

From Mr Russell Hunt

Sir, Throughout the recent debate on Labour's proposed removal of the upper limit for employees' National Insurance contributions no one poli-

tician, so far as I am aware, has referred to the crippling impact of this tax on small business.

Many owner-managed businesses are trading as limited companies for commercial reasons. Under revenue rules, the owner is an employee, and is liable for income tax and both employer's and employee's contributions. On an annual salary of £20,000 this results in an effective tax rate today of 43.45 per cent. On a salary of £30,000 the effective rate is 45.50 per cent, rising to 48.41 per cent under Labour's proposals.

Where is the incentive for risk-taking, initiative, and enterprise? My vote will go to the Chancellor with the courage to abolish employees' NICs for companies employing fewer than, say, five or ten staff.

Grand, politically inspired, training schemes and enterprise initiatives will never "kick start" the economy; reduced NICs might.

Yours faithfully,
RUSSELL HUNT,
35 Lea Wood Road,
Fleet, Hampshire.
January 13.

From Mr John E. Strafford

Sir, The former Labour Chancellor of the Exchequer, Denis Healey, in his autobiography *The Time of my Life*, published in 1989, wrote about taxation as follows:

... any substantial attempt to improve the lot of the poorest section of the population must now be at the expense of the average man and woman, since the very rich do not collectively earn enough to make much difference, and the average man does not nowadays want to punish those who earn little more than he, since he hopes ultimately to join them.

Perhaps we should remember this whenever a political party advocates redistributing taxation.

Yours faithfully,
JOHN E. STRAFFORD,
Perama, Fulmer Road,
Gerrards Cross, Buckinghamshire.
January 13.

From Mr N. V. Rees

Sir, Part of the recession over which Mr Lamont does have control is employers' NI payments, which effectively tax employers with an additional salary for every ten paid.

What better route to unemployment could have been devised than to punish firms for employing people? How better to suppress the quality of British goods and services than to insist that the higher the skill and thus pay of the employee, the greater the punishment?

Yours faithfully,
N. V. REES,
12 Cahon Road,
New Barnet, Hertfordshire.
January 14.

UK's own form of 'granny dumping'

From Mr Geoffrey C. Atkinson

Sir, "Granny dumping" (report, January 10) is already a common phenomenon in the UK, only we call it "community care".

Unlike the Americans, we do not drive our old people to hospitals and leave them with notes round their necks. We leave them at home, throw in meals-on-wheels a few days a week, arrange visits from over-stretched community nurses and home helps, and expect charities and non-existent families to do the rest.

We provide inadequate social security to allow old people to choose good-quality residential or nursing care, and as from April next year, central government is throwing the whole hot potato back, almost certainly with inadequate funds, to local authorities.

As a coup de grace the Audit Commission has now recommended that old people should not block long-term hospital beds since "community care is cheaper". Of course it is in its present form, but to the frail, confused, elderly person it is a form of squalid solitary confinement that is a shame and a threat to all of us as the population ages.

Is there any chance, I wonder, that one of the political parties will have the courage to put the care of our ageing population high on the agenda for the forthcoming election?

Yours faithfully,
GEOFFREY C. ATKINSON
(Director),
Motor and Allied Trades
Benevolent Fund,
Lynwood, Sunninghill,
Ascot, Berkshire.
January 10.

From the Director of Carers National Association

Sir, I was pleased to see that Sarah Harper's address to the Institute of British Geographers pointed out the unacceptable burdens which are placed on family carers. We should not overstate the danger of "granny dumping", since most families continue to take on the care of elderly relatives either for reasons of love or duty.

It is undoubtedly true, though, that burdens on family carers are increasing while the resources available to support them are decreasing. We simply cannot continue to exploit carers in this way — if we do, "granny dumping" may well develop into an epidemic.

If you have cared for an elderly person for ten or even 20 years, it is not unreasonable that there comes a point where you feel you simply cannot go on. When carers reach this point, many find that help at all is available to them. It is hardly surprising that a few feel like "dumping".

Yours faithfully,
JILL PITKEATHLEY,
Director,
Carers National Association,
29 Chisworth Mews, W2,
January 10.

From the Reverend D. Howell-Jones

Sir, Mr Richard M. Hughes (letter, January 4) misses the point. He may not wish to smoke Turkish cigarettes — nor do I, and we are not obliged to — but if we are unwilling to defend the freedoms of others (in which, perhaps, we see little merit) who will defend our freedoms when they are threatened?

Yours faithfully,
D. HOWELL-JONES,
71 Christchurch Road,
Norwich, Norfolk.
January 4.

Smoking and health

From the Reverend D. Howell-Jones

Sir, Mr Richard M. Hughes (letter, January 4) misses the point. He may not wish to smoke Turkish cigarettes — nor do I, and we are not obliged to — but if we are unwilling to defend the freedoms of others (in which, perhaps, we see little merit) who will defend our freedoms when they are threatened?

Yours faithfully,
D. HOWELL-JONES,
71 Christchurch Road,
Norwich, Norfolk.
January 4.

Musical tradition

From Mr Bryan G. Lowe

Sir, I totally agree with your correspondence. Mr Wilson (January 10), that the custom of standing for the Hallelujah Chorus is indeed foolish; but how are we, who prefer to enjoy it from a sitting position, to convince the standing majority? Each time I decline to rise I am threatened with abuse by my companions.

Yours faithfully,
BRYAN G. LOWE,
31 Birchwood Drive,
Lightwater, Surrey.
January 10.

From Mr B. S. Adams

Sir, As George II was a king among philistines, having, by his own admission, "boorish and bawling", it seems not unlikely that his lack of enthusiasm extended to music also. I was brought up to believe that he stood at the opening of the Hallelujah Chorus not out of admiration for Handel, but because he thought it was the national anthem. I can well imagine that by that stage of the performance he was hoping to go home.

Yours faithfully,
B. S. ADAMS,
3 The Street, Brecon, Powys.
January 10.

From Mr John Silverlight

Sir, "Haydn, hearing the Hallelujah Chorus in Westminster Abbey, rose to his feet with the crowd, wept, and exclaimed, 'He is the master of us all.'" (*The Oxford Companion to Music*, 1942 edition).

Yours faithfully,
JOHN SILVERLIGHT,
43 Suffolk Road, Barnes, SW13.

Letters to the editor should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be sent to a fax number — (071) 782 5046.

Catholic teachings as original sin, the divinity of Christ, the real presence in the Eucharist, the Sunday Mass obligation, the virtue of chastity, the issue of abortion, etc., are not so much as mentioned in it.

Critics fear that this is because authors and supporters of the resource do not consider these things to be of importance to the faith which we send our children to Catholic schools to learn, particularly since we have been given no assurance that teaching on these matters will be included in the undisclosed complementary "parts" of the religious education programme.

Yours sincerely,
KENNETH PLATT,
47 Heathurst Road,
Sanderstead, Surrey.
January 8.

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Time takes dramatic toll

DONALD COOPER



Murderer trapped within a nightmare of guilt and doom: Philip Langridge as the hell-ravaged Mathias

MUSIC THEATRE

The Bells
Riverside

"IT IS IT" shrieks the hell-ravaged Mathias as he bursts into his tavern and slams the door on the electronic blizzard. But nobody is taken in. No, no, it is you, Philip Langridge, it is you. Though quite what you are doing in this piece of hokum one might well be wondering, were it not that the present publicity has been making sure we all knew the answer. With the cancellation of the English National Opera's revival of *Beatrice and Benedict* you found yourself with time on your hands, and so with an opportunity to work with your director son Stephen and his Greenlight Music Theatre. Nothing could be more understandable, or as it rather has to be, forgivable.

Understanding and forgiveness are stretched somewhat more by the composer, Daryl Runswick, first for choosing this creaking piece of stage machinery, and then for doing so oddly little with it. This was, of course, the play that gave Henry Irving one of his great roles, but in the way of popular art, it has long since receded way over the horizon of comprehension. The characters have flattened to cardboard; the situation appears contrived in the most obvious way to provide a nightmare of guilt and doom for Mathias as he loses the battle to fight back memories of the murder he committed 15 years before. There must, surely, have been more to it when Irving staggered and stoned.

One reason for going back to the piece might have been to explore the distancing and desecration it seems to have suffered. Another way, of course, could have been to camp it up like mad. But Runswick does neither of these things. He takes it very much at face value, and leaves large stretches

of it in spoken dialogue, sometimes with mildly atmospheric music for his ensemble of piano, cello, clarinet and taped synthesizer underneath, and sometimes, too, with the words delivered in notated rhythm (his note suggests rap as his source, but this excites a promise that is not fulfilled, and in any event, Stravinsky used the device in *Soldier's Tale* in 1918). The sung passages are mostly in all-purpose modern-opera-ese, except for some curious interventions of waltzing.

Of course, the fact that the perform-

ers are just performers — that we see and hear Langridge, not Mathias — is some indication of the present flimsiness of the Leopold Lewis play and of the misplaced caution of the musical treatment. And it is not easy to take much pleasure even in Langridge's performance when one knows this as the voice of Peter Grimes, of Tom Rakewell, of Aaron, of Idomeneo, of Orpheus. Richard Stuart gives a splendid turn as the bluff old gen required by the plot to tell us the story of the murder. The rest would probably be more than

adequate if there were anything to be adequate in.

As it is, the evening is principally a triumph of design. Nigel Lowery does wonders with minimal resources: a few bits of furniture and simple period costumes all look spectrally phosphorescent, glowing in white throughout, and the animated puppets in the last scene show what one could by this point be doubting that theatre can still make the flesh creep.

PAUL GRIFFITHS

Acis and Galatea

Queen Elizabeth Hall

THE periwigs, hoes and garters of the English Baroque Festival's Baroque Ensemble, introduced in the late Seventies in the cause of authenticity, now seem as old-fashioned as white tie and tails. Yet it was only reasonable that the players should wear such garb for Paul Hemon's production of Handel's *Acis and Galatea*. They were, after all, positioned prominently on-stage, and the costumes of the cast — who perched on salon chairs when not performing — were likewise those of the early 18th century.

Yet these outfits, rather than transporting the audience back to 1718, made us feel like 20th-century gatecrashers in the Duke of Chandos's house. In any case, for all the delightful invention it contains, *Acis* is so firmly bound by the conventions of its time that one invariably feels slightly removed from it. The carefully drawn characters and absorbing interpersonal dramas of Handel's later operas and oratorios are missing.

STEPHEN PETTITT

Anthrax/Public Enemy
Brixton Academy

A FEW years ago, a heavy metal/rap double bill would have been unimaginable. The styles are polar opposites, the one the province of suburban whites, the other of urban blacks. The only common ground was the alienation from the mainstream professed by both audiences.

That, and a mutual fondness for aggressive rhythms, is inspiring some tentative couplings. Still, it was a surprise to find Public Enemy, a renowned black separatist, sharing a marquee with the unmistakably

white, and evidently middle-class, Anthrax.

Or was it Public Enemy's leader, Chuck D, halted his show to comment. Music is a universal language, he pronounced, sounding for all the world like Cliff Richard. PE were committed black nationalists but Anthrax were old friends. Those who didn't like it could...

Fortunately, everyone liked it. The house was mainly white and unapologetically hostile — an Anthrax crowd, by the look of them. (Did some Enemy fans avoid the gig to protest at the apparent softening of Public Enemy's militant stance? However, both bands were greeted with deafening approbation. If anything, the rappers seemed to have the edge.

It was for a good reason. From their

entrance, heralded by the sound of police sirens, to the abrupt denouement an hour later, Public Enemy were relentlessly fierce. The guerrilla image was heightened by the presence of four men, attired in to-bunker combat gear, standing at rigid attention behind the rappers. This was the "bodyguard" unit, Security of the First World. The effect was satisfactorily intimidating.

On LP, Public Enemy lyrics are the complex mainpours of their sound. Live, the words were condensed and transformed into chunks of rhythm. Rappers Chuck D and Flavor Flav assaulted songs headlong, rendering them identifiable only by their tunes. This reductive process resulted in a noise that really could only be described as noise, yet which was

informed by a purely hypnotic beat. Anthrax, on the other hand, possessed all of PE's drawbacks (too loud, too sexist) and few of their merits. They are considered to be less primeval than the average metal group. But it was hard to deduce why. One thrashy song blended seamlessly into the next, their inordinate length emphasised by the ticking of a large skull-and-crossbones clock sidestage. Things only perked up when Anthrax were joined by Public Enemy for an encore of their collaborative single, "Bring the Noise". At that point PE more welcome injunction would have been "remove the noise".

CAROLINE SULLIVAN

Arts features, page 12

NEW RELEASES

◆ **BILLY BATHGATE** (15): New-
worshiping his parents, the
gangster's 1930s New York. Muffled,
disappointing version of
E. L. Doctorow's 1988 best-selling
novel. Starring Dustin Hoffman, Loren
Dean director, Robert Benton.
Camden Parkway (071-267 7034)
Cannon Chelsea (071-352 5096)
Notting Hill (071-727 0705)
Odeon Kensington (0426 914669)
Leicester Square (0426 915683)
Screen on the Green (071-226 3520)
Whiteleys (071-732 3532)

◆ **THE BRIDGE** (12): Vapid British
costume drama about a Victorian wife's
summer affair, from Maggie
Herringway's novel. With Susie
Rimes, David O'Hare. Director, Syd
McCarthy.
Cannon: Fulham Road (071-370 2638)
Haymarket (071-438 1527)
Tottenham Court Road (071-438 0149)
MGM Trocadero (071-434 0031)

◆ **HELLO, HEMINGWAY**: Young girl's
problems with education and family in
Havana, 1955. Refreshing, better-than-
Odeon drama. Director, Fernando Perez.
ICA Cinema (071-930 3847)

◆ **LIESTRAUB** (18): Mike Pigg's
dark tale of love, death and cal-
son architecture. Intoxicating at first,
but yawns creep in, starring Kevin
Anderson, Pamela Gidley, Ken Novak.
Cannon: Fulham Road (071-370 2638)
Shefferson Avenue (071-536 8861)
MGM Trocadero (071-434 0031)
Whiteleys (071-732 3532)

◆ **MERCI LA VIE** (18): Time-hopping
adventure of two misbegotten girls
(Charlotte Gainsbourg, Anik
Grinberg). Strained variation on
Bertrand Blier's first hit, *Les
Valseuses*.
Camden Place (071-485 2443)
Chelsea Cinema (071-351 3743/3743)
Lumiere (071-536 0891)

◆ **YEAR OF THE GUN** (15): Tedious,
badly scripted thriller about the Red
Engage terrorists. With Anthony
Franciosa, Sharon Stone, director, John
Frankenheimer.
Cannon: Haymarket (071-438 1527)
Oxford Street (071-434 0031) Whiteleys
(071-732 3532)

◆ **THE ADDAMS FAMILY** (PG): Tasty
teatime of black humour, courtesy of
the 1960s TV spin-off from Charles
Addams's macabre cartoons. Starring
Raul Julia, Anjelica Huston.

CURRENT

◆ **SEKRET**: Riveting performance
from Derek Jacobi and Robert Lindsay
in Anouilh's play on the relationship
between Thomas & Becket and Henry II.
Theatre Royal, Haymarket (071-
530 8800). Mon-Sat, 7.30pm, mat. Wed,
Sat, 3pm, 10pm.

◆ **THE CABINET MINISTER**: Derek
Jacobi and Maureen Lipman in a web-
of-lies, largely untold, comedy. The
Albany, St Martin's Lane, WC2 (071-
567 1115). Mon-Sat, 7.45pm, mat. Wed,
Sat, 3pm, 10pm.

◆ **DANCING AT LUGHNASSA**: Brian
Friel's Olivier Award-winning play,
set in 1930s Donegal, returns
with a new cast.
Theatre, Charing Cross Road, WC2
(071-484 5025). Mon-Sat, 8pm, mat.
Thurs, 5pm, Sat, 4pm, 10pm.

◆ **A DYKINER FOR TWO PEOPLE**:
Bruce Myers, Corinna Jaber play many
roles in this Yiddish tale of a Jewish
supernatural. Accompanied, intense.
Hampstead, Swiss Cottage Centre,
NW3 (071-252 5001). Mon-Sat, 8pm, mat.
Sat, 4pm, 8pm.

◆ **AN EVENING WITH GARY
LINKER**: Sometimes stroll out to the
fantasies of a woman married to a
cocker hound.
Duchess, Catherine Street, London
WC2 (071-494 5073). Mon-Thurs, 8pm,
Fri, Sat, 8pm and 8.45pm, 10pm.

◆ **THE GIGLI CONCERT**: Barry
Foster is sponsored with making an Irish
millionaire (Tony Doyle) in the new
Gigli in Tom Murphy's powerful libretto.
Almeida, Armada Street, W1 (071-569
4404). Mon-Sat, 8pm, mat. Sat, 4pm,
10pm.

◆ **THE MADNESS OF GEORGE III**:
Nigel Hawthorne is very fine as a
crazy king, but as a witness, Alan
Bentley's play does not quite work.

◆ **PAINTING CHURCHES**: The National
Theatre's production of the
playwright Tom Stoppard's West-
End transfer following its British
premiere last year. The comedy centres
on the director of the Church Theatre,
the father, a distinguished poet (Laurie
Rance), his eccentric wife (Jill
Lawrence) and the daughter, a rising
New York artist (Sally Lindsay). The
production begins previewing tonight
and opens next Wednesday.

◆ **FLIEDERMAUS**: Richard Jones's
knockout version of the Johann
Strauss opera for English National
Opera has all the musicality of
Fiedlermaus but does not quite work.
However, splendid performances from
Lesley Garrett as a Madeline-like
Adele and Vivien Tierney as Rosalinda,
with Malcolm Donnelly as Eisenstein,
James Holmes conducting. One price
tickets are on sale in "Westminster
Opera Week".

◆ **ST. MARTIN'S**: St. Martin's Lane, London
WC2 (071-438 3101), 7.30pm.

◆ **RESOLUTION**: You take your chance
with this new year's dance series from
the Place, London's leading
contemporary dance venue. The event
is open to any young company willing
to take on the challenge of promoting
their work at their own risk. Tonight
brings a double-bill featuring
Compagnie Schied-Perrin from
France in a new work described as
"Fables", and the London-based
Company Pascale Boone performing
Eurydice inspired by the words of
Jean Cocteau.

◆ **THE PLACE**, 17 Duke Road, London
WC1 (071-387 0081), 8pm.

◆ **LECTURES**: At the Victoria & Albert
Museum, Dr. Elsie Fuchs gives a
lecture entitled "Empire Rudek" as
the father of the Arts in which she
talks about Court art in the light of
its European counterparts. While over at
the Victoria & Albert Museum, see
a gallery talk on the work of artist Damien
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Nauman is one of the foremost
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His work has been exhibited in his
variety and paradoxical in his purpose. He
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and the work of other artists. Hirst's
work has been described as possessing
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ICA Galleries, The Mall, London SW1
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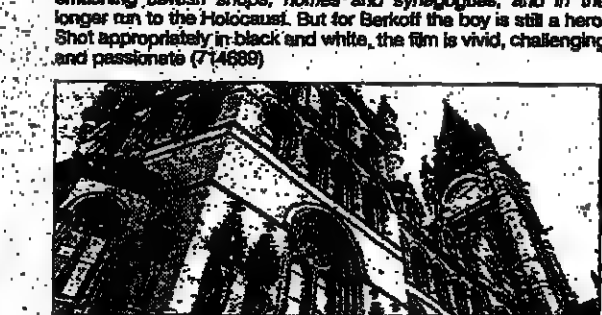
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6.00 *Celestial* (54115) 5.30 *BBC Breakfast News* (60387405)
9.05 *Kirby*. Robert Kirby-Silk chairs a studio discussion on the work of Kirby, astrologer and psychic (4767318) 8.50 *Hot Chefs* (5222467)
10.00 *News*, regional news and weather (426071) 10.05 *Playdays* (a) (342233) 10.25 *Stoppit and Tidypa* (f) (751598) 10.35 *No. 1* (a) (126548)
10.40 *News*, regional news and weather (1105) *Holiday* (f) (Coastal) (7815457)
10.50 *People Today* introduced by Miriam Stoppard and Adrian Miles. Includes news-regional news and weather at 12.00 (8377825)
11.00 *Regional News*. Music and chat hosted by Judi Spence (3074347)
11.05 *One O'Clock News* and weather (7280847)
11.10 *News*, regional news and weather (4991)
11.15 *News*, regional news and weather (4991)
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6.00 *Breakfast News* (1488844)
6.15 *News*. A round-up of business from both Houses (5100573)
6.30 *Daytime on 2*. Educational programme (7005673)
6.45 *News* and weather (11534844) followed by *You and Me* (f) (7005673)
7.15 *The Folkies*. Tales of England: The Lambton Worm. The folklorist Kevin Crossley-Holland with the tale of the Lambton family curse (f) (3373673). 2.35 *Country File*. Rural issues examined (f) (3373673)
7.30 *News* and weather (450115) followed by *Westminster Live*, introduced by Vivien White (655552). 3.50 *News*, regional news and weather (847052)
4.00 *Catchword*. Paul Cuth with another round of the fast-moving quiz game (a) (134)
4.30 *Holiday Orange*. Robert Robinson explores Hong Kong (f) (321711)
4.40 *Behind the Headlines* (5890883)
4.50 *Horizon*. West Wales: A documentary about research into viable biological past crops for the world's crops (f) (Coastal) (f) (742738)
5.00 *Star Trek: The Next Generation*. While investigating the erratic orbit of an asteroid, none the crew receive a surprise visit from the mischievous O. Starling Patrick Stewart and guest Whoopi Goldberg (Coastal) (827405)
5.10 *DEF*. It begins with *Refugees*. Britain has a host of localised youth tribes. Why do young people create their own styles, language and groups? (280283) 3.30 *Refugees*. Antoine de Saint-Exupéry's classic music by the Leveles, Apache Indian and Hole (337)
5.20 *The Day the World Changed* (a/v)
5.30 *CHOICE*. The actor and director Steven Berkoff launches a series of ten-minute personal essays on dates that have echoed down history. His choice is November 7, 1938 when a 17-year-old Jewish boy entered the German embassy in Paris, pulled out a gun and shot dead the third secretary, Hansel Grynepan. He was a German Jew who had seen his family and his own persecuted by the Nazis. Berkoff, taking his revenge in the only way he knew. But the assassination gave Hitler the excuse he wanted to step up his anti-Jewish programme. Grynepan's action led immediately to Kristallnacht, when gangs rampaged Germany smashing Jewish shops and synagogues, and in the longer run to the Holocaust. But for Berkoff the boy is still a hero. Shot appropriately in black and white, the film is vivid, challenging and passionate (714888)



The triumph of Gothic: Manchester Town Hall (8.10pm)

8.10 *Thames Valley*. The film traces the architectural debate that raged in Victorian England between the rival merits of classical and Gothic. It was more than just a matter of taste. Benjamin's thesis, illuminating if a shade simplistic, is that the styles were rooted in the culture of class. The landed aristocracy, elevated at the expense of the middle class, favoured the Gothic style, promoted classicalism. The rising commercial and industrial middle class favoured a return to the Middle Ages and Gothic. Championed by John Ruskin, Gothic prevailed, notably in the new House of Parliament and in Manchester Town Hall, a grandiose expression of commercial class pride. Not everyone retreated into the past. Joseph Paxton's glass and iron Crystal Palace was neither Gothic nor classical but an attempt to find a contemporary style. As a postscript Benjamin suggests parallels with the arguments set off by the Prince of Wales in his attack on modernism (923270)
8.00 *Film: Permanent Record* (1988) starring Alan Boyce and Karen Reeves. A high school student's suicide devastates his classmates, particularly one good friend who struggles to come to terms with the tragedy. A heart-breaking youth drama, capably directed by Manning. See more about *Permanent Record*, past, present, and future, than most radio programmes would let us in on - including the fact about the man who kept three hens down his trousers for five hours. The young man who has been destroyed by two of his three schools, and the Japanese industrialists, whose decision to lobby a belt-bearing factory in south Yorkshire might have been clinched by the site's proximity to a gold mine (a/v)
10.00 *News* and weather (f) (a/v)
10.15 *The Bible* (a/v): Daniel. Alec McCowen reads the second of six episodes. Women's Hour: Brian Redhead traces the history of the Christian church from the end of the Middle Ages to the present day (3 of 10) (a/v)
9.30 *Kaleidoscope* (a/v) (f)
9.45 *TV* 5.50 *Shipping Forecast* 5.55 *Weather* 6.00 *St. O'Clock News* 6.10 *News* 6.15 *Archers* 7.00 *Woman's Hour* (a/v) (f) 8.30 *Radio 5* 8.35 *News* 8.40 *Radio 4* 8.45 *News* 8.50 *Radio 5* 8.55 *News* 9.00 *Radio 4* 9.05 *News* 9.10 *Radio 5* 9.15 *News* 9.20 *Radio 4* 9.25 *News* 9.30 *Radio 5* 9.35 *News* 9.40 *Radio 4* 9.45 *News* 9.50 *Radio 5* 9.55 *News* 10.00 *Radio 4* 10.05 *News* 10.10 *Radio 5* 10.15 *News* 10.20 *Radio 4* 10.25 *News* 10.30 *Radio 5* 10.35 *News* 10.40 *Radio 4* 10.45 *News* 10.50 *Radio 5* 10.55 *News* 11.00 *Radio 4* 11.05 *News* 11.10 *Radio 5* 11.15 *News* 11.20 *Radio 4* 11.25 *News* 11.30 *Radio 5* 11.35 *News* 11.40 *Radio 4* 11.45 *News* 11.50 *Radio 5* 11.55 *News* 12.00 *Radio 4* 12.05 *News* 12.10 *Radio 5* 12.15 *News* 12.20 *Radio 4* 12.25 *News* 12.30 *Radio 5* 12.35 *News* 12.40 *Radio 4* 12.45 *News* 12.50 *Radio 5* 12.55 *News* 1.00 *Radio 4* 1.05 *News* 1.10 *Radio 5* 1.15 *News* 1.20 *Radio 4* 1.25 *News* 1.30 *Radio 5* 1.35 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Chairman chosen and chief executive sought

Ill health forces Fisons chief to step down

BY MARTIN WALLER

JOHN Kerridge has quit abruptly from the helm of Fisons, the pharmaceuticals and garden products group, blaming ill health.

Mr Kerridge, aged 57, was chairman, chief executive and the main architect of the revival in the company's fortunes during the Eighties.

The company was insisting last night that there was only a tangential link between Mr Kerridge's departure and the company's recent woes, capped last month by news of a £65 million hole in profits this year because of problems with the American regulatory authorities.

Mr Kerridge has had a slight heart problem and had been suffering from high blood pressure. Patrick Egan, the non-executive director who is taking over as executive chairman, said: "This obviously got progressively worse over the course of the last months. I'm not a medical man, but I would have thought it was not unaffected by the stress he's had in recent times because of the downturn in profits."

Mr Egan conceded last night that the search for a new chief executive had only just begun and no swift resolution was expected. Both internal and external candidates were being considered.

Mr Egan added that last year Mr Kerridge had accepted in principle a split in his roles, and the company started the search for a new chief executive before his condition deteriorated further over the Christmas and New Year period.

Medical advice at the start of the year had been that he should leave the company entirely. Mr Kerridge was "incommunicado indefinitely" last night, according to Fisons, and not at the Ipswich headquarters. Compensation terms are being agreed.

The company is denying market rumours that Mr Kerridge had come under pressure to split the roles because of his troubles. Mr Egan said the decision had been made in view of the former chairman's impending retirement in February 1988, to clear up the matter of succession.

The decision to seek a new chief executive had been made by the non-executive directors, including Mr Egan and Sir Philip Harris, the senior adviser.

Mr Egan said: "The board wishes it to be clearly understood that there has been no pressure on Mr Kerridge, either from his fellow board members or from our principal institutional shareholders, to take this course of action. The decision is a medical one and entirely his own."

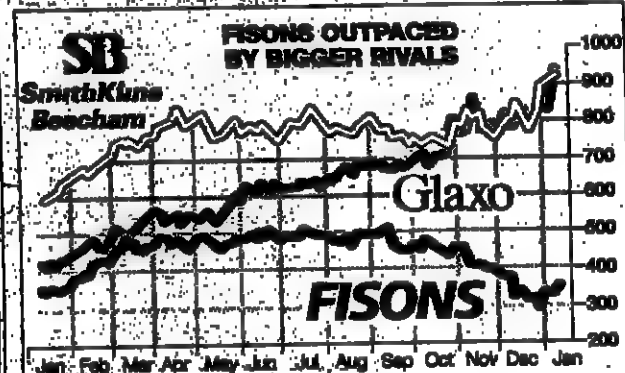
Market-watchers, however, believe there had been some behind-the-scenes lobbying for a split in the roles, given the difficulties the company has faced. The share price had fallen from above £5 in July to a 293p low on December 27. Yesterday, they continued to rally, up 11p to 365p, 18p ahead since Monday morning.

Mr Kerridge engineered the transformation of Fisons into a higher margin pharmaceutical business from one best known for its horticultural and gardening products. An attempt to find a chief executive four years ago came to nothing, and the candidates were not even presented to the non-executive directors.

Mr Kerridge did not always enjoy a good relationship with the City, and the company's falling fortunes were not helped by apparently contradictory statements to institutions on the problems caused by the American regulatory authorities.

Problems came to a head on December 11 with news of a ban on two drugs, Opticrom, a hay fever medicine, and Inferon, a blood product, that would hit this year's profits. The company denied allegations that Inferon had been stored in beer kegs.

Comment, page 25



Threat of strike drives down mark

BY ANATOLE KALETSKY, ECONOMICS EDITOR

THE mark fell sharply against the dollar, as well as the pound and other ERM currencies, after IG Metall, the German metalworkers' union, announced a formal strike ballot in support of its 10.5 per cent pay demand.

Although IG Metall's announcement was widely expected, it hit the German currency hard in a day of hectic trading, driven by many conflicting factors, including a small rise in Spanish interest rates, and slightly weaker than expected economic statistics published in America and Britain.

By the end of trading in London, the pound had risen to almost DM2.85 from its Monday close of DM2.8380, while the dollar stood at DM1.5970, up more than 1 per cent on the day.

In Britain, the Central Statistical Office announced that output prices for manufacturing goods rose in December by 0.1 per cent, giving a year-on-year increase of 5.0 per cent, down from 5.1 per

cent in November. Excluding food, drink and tobacco, the so-called "underlying" rate of producer inflation fell to 3.8 per cent from 4.0 per cent.

In America, the commerce department announced that retail sales fell by 0.4 per cent in December, compared with expectations of a 0.3 per cent decline.

However, financial markets showed no reaction to these figures, responding instead to rumours that the private University of Michigan survey, due out this week, will show a surge in American consumer confidence.

The mark was also weakened by an unexpected decision by the Bank of Spain to lift its key repo rate to 12.65 per cent from 12.5 per cent. Dealers said the move supported the peseta by making it clear that the Spanish authorities were determined to keep their currency strong.

German deadline, page 23
Comment, page 25

Stakis unveils £47m loss

BY GILLIAN BOWDITCH

ANDROS Stakis, deposed chief executive of the Stakis leisure group built up by his father, is to share a £700,000 compensation payment for lack of office with two other former directors of the company.

The payment will be detailed in the group's accounts, which are due out within weeks.

Sir Lewis Robertson, the company doctor brought in as chairman of the group in March, unveiled a pre-tax loss of £47.4 million for the year to end-September, and warned shareholders that they were unlikely to see the group fulfil its full potential in the current year.

Sir Lewis said he had taken strong corrective action and implemented a recovery strategy. This aims to concentrate on hotels and healthcare as the core businesses, divest some leisure activities and withdraw from commercial property.

In December, the management team was boosted by the appointment of David Michels, previously with Hilton

International, as chief executive of the company.

The pre-tax loss included £43.7 million of exceptional costs and provisions. Pre-tax profits last time were £30.6 million. Sir Lewis said the comparisons were distorted by the inclusion of £18 million of disposal profits in the previous year's results.

He said: "These distorting factors aside, it is the case, in common with most of the leisure industry, that Stakis experienced a marked downturn in trading almost throughout the year, especially in hotels and property."

Turnover rose from £150 million to £171 million, and the loss per share was 16.74p, against earnings of 12.1p. A final dividend of 0.45p will be paid, making 0.9p for the year, down from 2.7p.

Sir Lewis said the dividend reflected the directors' confidence in the underlying strength of the group and its potential for future development, while having due regard for the need to conserve cash resources.

The group has withdrawn its casinos from sale after it

proved impossible to sell them at an acceptable price. They will be retained for their strong cash flow. The sale of the Scottish public houses, restaurants and pizza houses, and the disposal of the chain of English Firkin public houses, raised £30 million, which has been used to reduce debt.

Sir Lewis said the group's main bankers had given assurances of appropriate support and a standstill agreement to end in March 1992 had been accepted by all Stakis' bankers.

The hotel division made profits of £7.2 million, against £27.6 million, which included £16.8 million of disposal profits. Healthcare improved its profits from £1.53 million to £1.97 million, and the leisure division profits grew from £8.75 million to £9.64 million. Property made a loss of £1.11 million, compared with profits of £2.94 million. The sale of the division has been put in the hands of Co-ordinated Land & Estates, an outside specialist.

Tempos, page 24

TODAY'S BUSINESS

SURVIVAL SENSE



David Coleridge, chairman of Lloyd's, has promised no sacred cows of the insurance market. Today sees the fourth attempt at reform, if not survival. Page 25

RATNERS TALKS

Ratners directors were in talks last night over whether to continue paying a dividend on the US preference shares. Page 23

OIL SLIPPING



Oil production in the former Soviet Union will fall again this year but pressure is still on Opec's Jibril Amis to cut output. Page 22

REVITALISED

Howden Group, the engineer, is back from the dead with interim profits of £5.81 million (£214,000). Tempos, page 24

HANDSHAKE



Derek Lewis, received a £579,550 payoff from Granada. Institutional shareholders have expressed concern. Page 23

Heaton takes over at panel

BY GRAHAM SEARLEANT
FINANCIAL EDITOR

FRANCES Heaton, a former Treasury official who has spent the past ten years in the corporate finance department of Lazard Brothers, is to be the next director general of the City's takeover panel. She will take over from Geoffrey Barnett, who returns to Barclays on March 11, on the usual two-year secondment.

Mrs Heaton said that regulating the conduct of takeovers, which requires quick decision making, was halfway between a public and private sector job and would allow her to deploy her experience in both camps. She defended takeovers as an important instrument for effecting management change but predicted the next phase would be more industrially and commercially oriented.

She said: "Takeovers got a bad name because of the wave of financially oriented bids."

Mrs Heaton was appointed by and will report to Sir David Calcutt, the panel chairman.

Diary, page 25



Predicting change: Frances Heaton, director general

Court puts BCCI into liquidation

BY NEIL BENNETT
BANKING CORRESPONDENT

THE Bank of Credit and Commerce International was formally put into liquidation at the High Court in London yesterday, as talks continue with Abu Dhabi on a compensation package.

The Bank of England applied for the winding-up order and was unopposed. Sir Donald Nicholls, the Vice-Chancellor, said the bank was "plainly and hopelessly insolvent". Touche Ross, the liquidator, said later it hoped the compensation plan would be announced soon. This will involve a \$3 billion injection by Abu Dhabi and should refund depositors up to 40 per cent of their losses.

The winding-up also triggers the Bank of England deposit protection scheme to compensate the 38,000 British depositors, with a maximum payout of £15,000 each.

BCCI tragedy, page 25

Botnar runs down Nissan UK

BY KEVIN EASON
MOTORING CORRESPONDENT

OCTAV Botnar is dismantling the remains of his Nissan UK company as the Japanese motor manufacturer yesterday ordered him to remove its logos from his 150 dealerships.

Nissan Motor (GB), the company set up by the Japanese manufacturer to take over distribution of Nissan cars from Nissan UK, has told Mr Botnar that his garages cannot now use the Nissan title or badges.

Nissan UK was Europe's most successful independent dealership chain until the Japanese severed a 21-year-old distribution agreement with Mr Botnar last year. Mr Botnar fought the decision through the courts.

However, the German multi-millionaire was yesterday winding down the business while strengthening other ac-

tivities to keep his 4,000 staff employed and his headquarters at Worthing, East Sussex, operational.

Although Nissan UK was the core business, employing about 350 people, Mr Botnar's operation includes AFG, the dealer chain, AFS, a finance company, a fleet leasing business and industrial machine supply arm.

AFS, the £400 million finance company, has 300,000 customers and has just negotiated security worth £250 million to assure its future, until at least 1996. AFG is the most troublesome, business, with only 20,000 new Nissan cars carried over from last year still to sell. When they have gone, many AFG garages will be left with only used cars unless they can find another franchise. Peugeot and Rover have taken over a number of AFG dealerships and a mix of closures, restructuring and new franchises will account for the rest in the

next few months. Mr Botnar is confident that Nissan UK staff will be absorbed by his other businesses.

Mr Botnar built his empire by importing Japanese cars in the Sixties, when they were regarded as little more than a joke. Within 20 years, he was selling 100,000 Nissan cars and vans a year in Britain, making it the biggest European market for the Japanese manufacturer.

A series of rows over pricing led to the Japanese starting its own distribution company, using 150 new dealers. Nissan Motor (GB) is anxious to promote its new network, leading to the decision to prevent Mr Botnar from advertising any links with Nissan.

Akio Sumitomo, Nissan Motor's managing director, said: "We regret the necessity to take this firm action but our new dealers and customers will see it as a responsible move to protect Nissan's name and reputation."

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Unions attacked for threatening economy

Steelworkers in Germany set strike deadline

FROM REUTER IN FRANKFURT

GERMANY'S powerful IG Metall union yesterday gave steel employers two weeks to improve a pay offer for 130,000 steelworkers or risk facing the first strike in more than a decade.

The union, however, handed German industry an olive branch with what some economists said was an unexpectedly moderate 1992 pay demand for four million engineering workers.

Franz Steinkühler, the Metall president, said the union would seek a maximum 9.5 per cent pay rise for engineers. "We are deliberately not insisting on a double-digit rise," he said.

The call for a steel strike follows the breakdown of talks on Monday, when IG Metall negotiators rejected an average 5.2 per cent pay rise for steelworkers backdated to November. IG Metall will

ballot its members in the steel industry from January 26 on whether they favour strike action.

The German steel sector has not held a strike since 1978-9. The union wants an immediate 1.1 per cent rise in the wage used as a basis for negotiations and 10.5 per cent more on top.

Klaus Zwickel, the union's deputy president, said: "The employers are now the only ones with the ability to prevent industrial action." The union emphasised it was open to further talks before the strike ballot started.

Union officials drew a clear distinction between the situation in the steel sector and the start of the engineering workers' talks, which began with their call for a maximum 9.5 per cent rise.

The 1992 wage round in the German engineering sector

starts in spring. The current agreement expires on March 31. Union officials said their demand was intended to show a reasonable, objective approach to wages, after strong criticism from the Bundesbank, employers and politicians that pay claims above 10 per cent — which have come from various sectors — were economically unjustifiable and could push Germany into a recession.

The slowing German economy cannot bear large wage rises as well as finance a recovery in eastern Germany, critics of large pay rises say.

OETV, the public sector union, said on Tuesday that it was prepared to strike to back its 9.5 per cent 1992 pay claim. Bank workers are planning token strikes this week to back their 10.5 per cent claim.

Herr Steinkühler said the IG Metall claim was based on its expectations of 1992 productivity growth of 1.5 to two per cent and inflation of 4 to 4.5 per cent. The rest of the demand was to correct in part a slide in wages compared with profits.

German economists say, however, that even the 9.5 per cent claim is still too high for comfort and that unions must settle below 6 per cent if economic stability is to be maintained.

Although the economy can probably take a short strike in the steel sector in its stride, a full-blown strike in the engineering sector would be catastrophic, economists say. Jean-Claude Paye, the OECD secretary general, gave warning that jobs rates will rise further this year and he criticised rich industrial countries for their attempts to "juggle the root causes" of unemployment (see report on page 10).

"The record so far has not been all that satisfactory," he told labour ministers at the start of a two-day meeting in Paris. "Despite solid economic growth over a prolonged period, our labour market institutions, private sector practices and government policies have not succeeded in mobilising and using the full potential of our human resources," he said.

With unemployment levels unlikely to recede to 1991 levels before 1993, despite the expected economic rebound, the OECD leader said remedial measures were needed, especially to help the most needy and vulnerable. "But the fundamental challenge is to ensure these actions are consistent with the objective of fundamental reform, and do not delay, impede or imperil the adjustment that is needed to provide the basis for sustained growth of employment," he said.

The OECD leader emphasised the need for a speedier matching of people and jobs. This issue, closely linked to the acquisition of skills, was the key to higher productivity, output and employment, he said.



Parted company: Derek Lewis, the former chief executive of Granada

Ex-Granada chief's payoff concerns shareholders

BY JONATHAN FRYN

INSTITUTIONAL shareholders of Granada Group, the leisure conglomerate, have expressed concern at the size of the £579,550 payoff to Derek Lewis, the former chief executive, which was shown in the company's 1991 report and accounts, published yesterday.

Mr Lewis left the company in July, after institutions extracted his departure as the price for a £310 million rights issue to prop up the heavily indebted balance sheet. He had been chief executive for a year and is thought to have been on a three-year contract worth about £200,000 a year.

One major shareholder in the company said the payment to Mr Lewis "sounds a bit more than expected". He added: "It's not something we are over the moon about, but what can we achieve by opposing it... We're never happy about these things but there's been worse over the years."

His comments were echoed by another large institutional holder of the shares, who said: "This sort of thing leaves us cold, we don't think people should be rewarded when they leave the company in these circumstances, but we understand why it happens." Shareholders were powerless to oppose payments of this kind, except by engaging in "massive amounts of litigation," he said.

Shares in Granada slumped 27p to 184p when a grim trading statement accompanied the announcement of Mr Lewis's departure in May last year. However, the Granada

shares have since recovered much of the lost ground and yesterday closed up 1p at 209p.

Gerry Robinson, the former chairman of Compass Group, the contract catering company, was appointed as Mr Lewis's successor in October.

The City has become increasingly concerned about the size of the payoffs awarded to ousted senior executives seen as responsible for the problems affecting some of Britain's biggest companies. A £2 million payoff to Ralph Halpern, the former chair-

man and chief executive of Burton Group, created a furore in November 1990, when he resigned from the company. However, Mr Lewis's payment is not being seen as provocative as that made to Mr Halpern.

The Granada accounts also show that David Plowright, another director, has exercised an option on a Cheshire house, which was granted by the company when he joined the board in 1981. The option has enabled him to purchase the house at its then value of £81,153. It is currently valued at £425,000.

Buyout failure prompts loss of 60 jobs at Hoare Govett

BY MICHAEL CLARK

HOARE GOVETT, the stockbroker, has been forced to cut 60 jobs from its total workforce of 440 after the failure of last year's management buyout.

The firm, which is a subsidiary of Security Pacific, the American bank, said the job losses would be achieved through a mixture of redundancies and early retirement. They include 39 job losses in the "front office", made up of brokers, salesmen and market-makers, and 21 in the "back office" in positions related to settlement and administration.

Among the casualties is Richard Jeffreys, the economist who was reputed to be earning an annual six-figure salary.

The firm will, however, continue to operate a downgraded economics research department.

Hoare will cease researching about 145 companies, but will continue to cover a further 325 companies, accounting for about 80 per cent of stock market capitalisation.

The firm will also stop making markets in 137 companies, reducing the number of quoted companies it trades in to 400.

Peter Meinerzhagen, chairman of Hoare Govett, said: "We are focusing on our strengths, but we are now covering, in both terms of research and trading, the same companies we specialised in before Big Bang in 1986."

In addition to the winding down of the economics team, Hoare has also closed down its mergers and acquisitions team.

Mr Meinerzhagen added: "We aim to create the type of firm we believe will compete successfully in the marketplace."

Meanwhile, Hoare is continuing to negotiate with at least half-a-dozen different suitors in order to extricate itself from Security Pacific. However, no clear-cut buyer has yet emerged.

Mr Meinerzhagen said: "It could be next week, it

could be in three months' time before the deal is finally clinched."

Hoare's original management buyout was abandoned after Security Pacific merged with Bank of America last year.

Royal Life raises payout

Royal Life has increased the payout on 25-year endowment policies maturing after February 1, 1992, by 12 per cent but the payout on ten-year endowments maturing this year has fallen 5 per cent.

Royal said the increase was due mainly to changes to the bonus structure last year.

Power profit

Power Corporation, the Irish property company that is unwinding its joint venture relationship with Brent Walker Group, reports pre-tax profits of £18.1 million (£4.86 million) for the nine months to September 30. There is an interim dividend of 2p a share.

Trust return

Aberforth Split Level Trust, the split capital investment trust, reports a return on assets of 5.1 per cent from May 14, 1991, to end-December 1991. There is a second quarterly dividend of 2p per income share, making 4p total.

Contract won

GEC Alsthom, in consortium with Balfour Beatty Projects and Engineering, has won a £370 million turnkey contract for the Thames Power 1,000 megawatt gas-fired power station, East London.

Cluff issue

Cluff Resources' £8.3 million rights issue of 11-for-20 at 34p a share has been 37.81 per cent subscribed. The shares closed 1p up at 31p.

Ratners to decide on payment of dividend in US

BY GILLIAN BOWDITCH

RATNERS Group directors, led by James McAdam, the new chairman, were in talks last night over the crucial issue of whether to continue paying the dividend on the group's American preference shares. The total payment for the financial year starting next month is expected to be £26 million.

The urgent meeting was taking place at the same time as the latest tranche of variable dividend preference shares came up for auction in America.

Because of credit downgrades by Moody's and Standard & Poor's, the American credit rating agencies, the rate of interest Ratners would have to pay on last night's auction would be 11.25 per cent, the equivalent of 250 per cent of the American commercial paper rate.

The last time this tranche came to auction, Ratners had to pay 8.752 per cent, equivalent to 175 per cent of the American commercial paper rate.

If Ratners decides not to pay the dividend on this tranche, which it is at liberty to do, it will not be able to pay the dividends on any of the other preference shares as they all have equal ranking.

Ratners has four tranches of auction market preferred stock (AMPS), each worth \$50 million, and each tranche comes up for auction every 28 days, which means there is an auction every week. The shares can only be redeemed at the option of the issuer.

If Ratners decides not to pay the dividend, it rolls up and is payable at a future date. However, Ratners will have to pay the rolled-up divi-

dend on the preference shares before it can resume paying any dividend to ordinary shareholders. The group said that it would pay no final ordinary dividend for the current year, when it forecasts losses of £72 million for the current year.

When he was appointed last week, Mr McAdam said that the issue of whether or not to pay the preference dividends was "a sensitive and complex issue". The group refused to comment on his earlier last night.

Analysts were speculating last week that some of Ratners' bankers were putting pressure on the group not to pay the preference dividend but that some of Ratners' directors were keen to pay the dividends to prevent financial problems at a later date. There are also fears of a pre-emptive strike by holders of other classes of Ratners equity if the preference dividends are not paid.



McAdam: leading talks

EC and US to restart farm talks

FROM REUTER IN BRUSSELS

RAY MacSharry, the European farm commissioner, could meet Ed Madigan, the American agriculture secretary, at the end of next week to discuss farming aspects of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade negotiations, according to EC officials.

The two men last met in Brussels on December 20, when they failed to make headway on the farm trade chapter of the talks.

The extent to which subsidy systems distort trade is one of the most contentious issues arising from the compromise paper drawn up by Arthur Dunkel, the director general of GATT, as the basis for com-

pleting the five-year negotiations.

The Uruguay round talks remain dominated as they have been over the past five years by the struggle over farm subsidy cuts, waged mainly between the European Community on one hand and America and other major farm exporters on the other.

However, many of the exporters feel the time for changes in draft proposals is past. New Zealand's ambassador told the steering group for the Uruguay round talks on Monday that his country "is opposed to changes in the 20 December package". New Zealand is a leading member of the Cairns group of 14 farm-exporting countries, many of which voiced

strong reservations about any attempt to reopen the debate on what they viewed as a finely balanced package.

Cairns members, along with America, have said the Dunkel package has already seriously watered down their original demands for 75 per cent to 90 per cent cuts in farm subsidies. The Dunkel package envisages cuts of 20 per cent to 36 per cent.

In a speech to farmers in Kansas City on Monday, President George Bush showed frustration with EC efforts to protect its Common Agricultural Policy. He said: "Sooner or later the European Community must stop hiding behind its own 'iron curtain' of protectionism."

However, Tran Van-Thinh,

the EC ambassador, told the steering group there would have to be serious improvements in the Dunkel text — meaning more protection for farmers.

Japan, South Korea, Austria, Switzerland and the Scandinavian countries have also pressed for changes in the agricultural text.

Mr Dunkel's aim is to end the Uruguay round by mid-April. He said he felt it his duty to serve as an honest broker in discussions on adjusting his package, but added: "This exercise must be precise and concentrated entirely on what we can all collectively agree to without unravelling the package."

Diplomats said those seeking to make changes would have to make major concessions elsewhere in order to leave the overall balance of the Dunkel package intact.

But for many of the Cairns members agriculture is the most important sector of their economies and the basic farm proposals are the most important provisions in the Dunkel text.

Non-EC diplomats said it was difficult to imagine concessions large enough to convince them that they should agree to smaller cuts in farm support or to increased protection.

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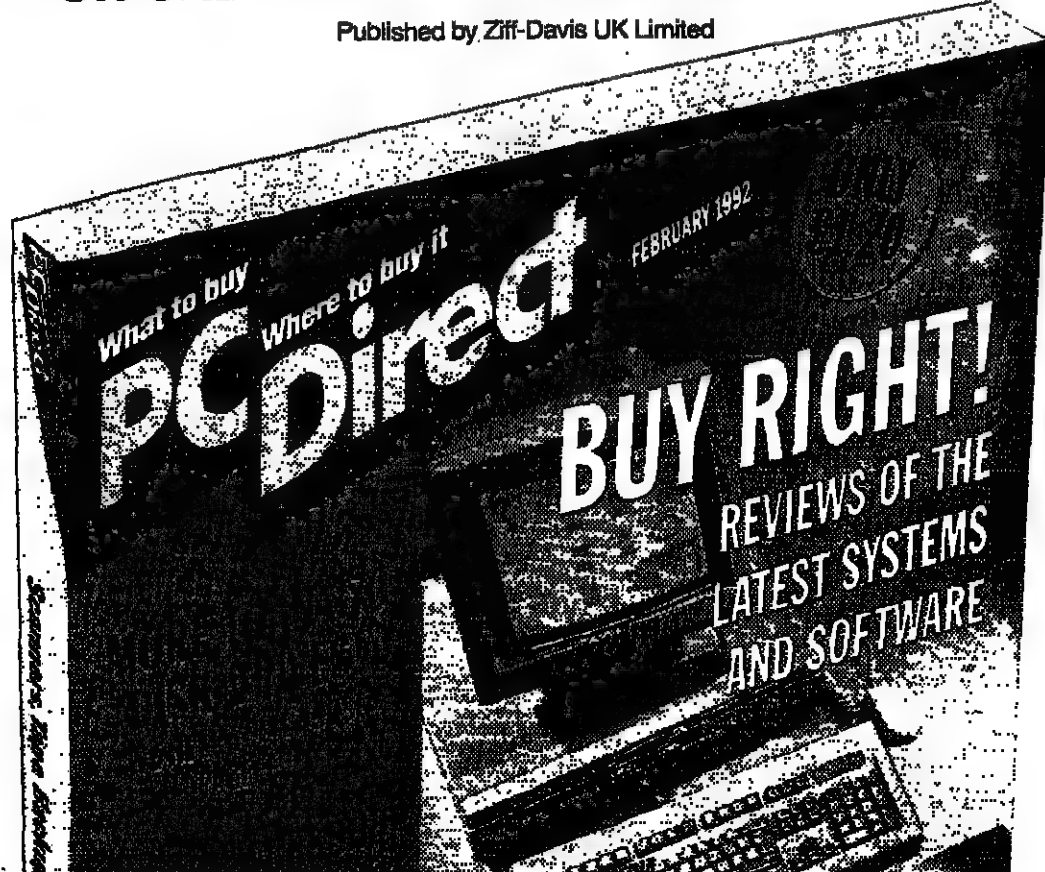
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for power station fans in America and cooling systems for the European fighter aircraft. Gearing has been cut by half to 50 per cent and is headed for the 30 per cent region. John Jackson, chairman since September, may well feel "so far, so good."

The shadow, however, of

Eurotherm

Eurotherm shares merit further support despite a strong run from 182p a year ago to 305p yesterday, when they gained a further 5p.

A 46 per cent slump in taxable profits to £7.15 million last year, though lamentable, was expected. Analysts anticipate a recovery to about £14.5 million in the current year even though no recovery in demand is likely.

The recovery should come as a result of restructuring in

the final weeks of the last financial year. Overheads have been reduced by £3 million, resulting in an exceptional charge of £1.9 million against 300 redundancies.

Claus Hultman, the new managing director, has streamlined the number of operating subsidiaries thus reducing duplication of costs. Interest costs should also continue to fall, a reflection of lower interest rates and careful cash management.

Earnings fell from 19.6p a share to 10.58p but there is a token dividend increase from 7.5p to 7.55p, with a 4.7p fall which suggests the company feels comfortable with City expectations.

Turnover slipped from £164.4 million to £157.7 million but margins were severely eroded, leaving operating profits down from £15.35 million to £9.08 million. Britain did little more than break even on sales of £40.6 million, down from £47.2 million, as capital investments by Eurochem's foreign customers, including ICI, almost vanished. Overseas sales fell steadily at £117 million.

Adam Page, an analyst at County NatWest, anticipates earnings of 22p which would leave the shares on a p/e of just under 14. Not cheap, but dividend and growth prospects remain fair which should underpin further advances.

EUROTHERM shares merit further support despite a strong run from 182p a year ago to 308p yesterday, where they gained a further 5p.

A 46 per cent slump in taxable profits to £7.15 million last year, though lamentable, was expected. Analysts anticipate a recovery to about £14.5 million in the current year even though no recovery in demand is likely.

The recovery should come as a result of restructuring in

STOCK MARKET

250p, which is expected to suffer from a lower oil price.

British Steel hardened 1p to 68p, helped by the growing threat of a strike by Germany's steel workers.

UBS Phillips & Drew, stockbroker, has also upgraded its recommendation from a hold to a buy.

Shares in Amber Day, Phil

Carlton Communications, the film and television services group, jumped 15p to 52p. The group's video duplication

for Walt Disney and recently duplicated *Fantasia*, the classic cartoon. Reports in the industry claim Walt Disney is pressing ahead with plans to release

ip Green's fast-growing discount chain, which owns What Everyone Wants, recovered some of Monday's 15p fall, which followed a bear raid. The shares, initially up 6p, closed 1p firmer at 93p.

	Period	Open	High	Low	Close	Volume
FT-SE 100						
Previous open intraday: 34970	Mon 92	25460	2569.0	2518.0	2561.0	8344
	Tue 92	2590.0	2591.0	2580.0	2594.5	70
Three Month Sterlib						
Previous open intraday: 172580	Mon 92	88.81	89.03	88.77	89.00	14356
	Tue 92	90.07	90.19	90.03	90.17	3641
Three Mth Eurodollar						
Previous open intraday: 35992	Mon 92	92.60	92.67	92.58	92.65	1392
	Tue 92	92.60	92.64	92.58	92.65	1392
Three Mth Euro On						
Previous open intraday: 205181	Mon 92	90.60	90.67	90.58	90.67	10066
	Tue 92	91.01	91.11	91.00	91.10	16414
US Treasury Bond						
Previous open intraday: 3167	Mon 92	109.30	109.30	109.03	109.16	1781
	Tue 92					
Long Gilt						
Previous open intraday: 55980	Mon 92	95.14	95.20	95.05	95.25	32228
	Tue 92	95.14	95.24	95.15	95.25	201
Japanese Govmt Bond						
	Mon 92	102.05	102.05	101.89	102.04	72
	Tue 92				102.04	0
German Govmt Bond						
Previous open intraday: 117005	Mon 92	87.94	88.29	87.83	88.20	86558.0
	Tue 92	88.53	88.67	88.53	88.74	60
Three Month ECU						
Previous open intraday: 6983	Mon 92	90.97	90.94	90.92	90.94	505
	Tue 92	90.43	90.57	90.43	90.56	255
Euro Swiss Franc						
Previous open intraday: 24524	Mon 92	92.52	92.61	92.52	92.60	1663
	Tue 92	92.52	92.65	92.59	92.64	7622

closed around the day's low, with a stronger dollar it in late trading. Cocoa or holding in a narrow physical trade saw high-erning the market with at present.

**GNF LONDON
GRAIN FUTURES**

WHEAT (cass 48)	
Jan	125.50
Mar	128.30
May	131.30
Jul	133.50
Sep	111.75
Volume	122

**BARLEY
(cass 4/8)**

Jan	119.10
Mar	121.30
May	123.30
Sep	109.00
Nov	112.00
Volume	25

**HI-PH SOYA
(cass 48)**

Feb	127.80
Apr	128.00
Jun	122.50
Aug	122.50
Oct	125.00
Volume	125

**POTATO
Cass**

Jan	118.00
Apr	119.00
May	127.00, 138.5
Volume	126

NEU RISS CW (cass 48)

Feb	30.50-50.00
-----	-------------

(Continued) (Volume per day)

Copper Cde A (Futures)
Lead (Futures)
Zinc HI Cde (Futures) ...
Tin (Futures)
Aluminum HI Cde (Futures) ...
Nickel (Futures)

**LONDON OIL REPORTS (CIS-LOR) -
London 6:00pm** North Sea exports reacted to news that there will be fewer cargoes in February because of maintenance and earlier weather delays.

CRUDE OILS (\$/barrel FOB)

Brent Physical	18.20	+0.15
Brent 15 day (Feb)	17.90	+0.10
Brent 15 day (Mar)	17.65	0.00
W Texas Intermediate (Feb)	18.25	-0.11
W Texas Intermediate (Mar)	18.70	-0.10

PRODUCTS (\$/MT)

Spot CCI (NW Europe) (General delivery)		
Premium Gas .15	Bid: 200 (a/c)	202 (a/c)
Genoil EEC	170 (1-)	173 (1-)
Min EEC 181 Feb	170 (2)	171 (1-)
Min EEC 181 Mar	170 (2)	171 (1-)
1.5 Fuel Oil	60 (a/c)	62 (a/c)
Naphtha	185 (+3)	190 (+3)

**IFE FUTURES
GAS OIL**

Mar	164.00-63.50	Jan	164.50-63.25
Apr	164.75 SLR	Aug	165.75 SLR
May	164.00 SLR		Vol: 10803

BRENT

Mar	17.85-17.55	Apr	17.45-17.55
Feb	17.60-17.65		Vol: a/a

**BITUMEN
CNI Ltd (\$10/mt)**

Jan 92	High: 1555	Low: 1351	Close: 1356
Feb 92	1590	1385	1385
Mar 92	1605	1605	1605
Apr 92	1620	1605	1608

Vol: 302 lots. Open last: 2307. Index last: 1508-414

FOX MEGAT INDEX

Nov	Jan	Bit	mag	Offer	...
Jan	Jan	Bit	mag	Offer	...
Jan	Jan	Bit	mag	Offer	...

(Open prices) (Volume mag)

LONDON METAL EXCHANGE

Cash: 1155.5-1157.0	3mly: 1157.1-1157.5	Fixed: 1157.5	Vol: 102975
281.20-281.50	285.50-294.00	127025	
141.0-142.0	141.0-142.0	4500	
\$480.0-546.0	\$520.0-523.0	600	
1115.0-1115.5	1139.0-1139.5	117795	

Fixed: 1157.5

New York — American blue reached minutes after

New York — American blue chips opened slightly lower on weak retail sales data but quickly recouped their losses and moved into positive ground.

George Pirrone, senior trader at Dreyfus Corporation, said strong performances by oil stocks and American Express helped the Dow Jones industrial average power from a low of 3,184

[illegible]

RECENT ISSUES 115

[illegible]

Exchange index compared with 1985 was up at 90.4 (day's range 90.4).					
Set Rates for Jan 14		Close		1 month	3 month
American	3.1919-1.2068	3.2032-3.2008	4-1/2	4-1/2	4-1/2
Basis	50.35-58.73	52.35-58.73	13-1/2	13-1/2	25-18 1/2
Canada	1.00-1.00	1.11-1.00	2-1/2	2-1/2	2-1/2
France	1.0699-1.0699	1.0629-1.0629	5-1/2	13-1/2	13-1/2
Germany	2.8391-2.8491	2.8477-2.8491	4-1/2	4-1/2	4-1/2
Italy	214.71-214.54	215.31-214.54	85-100B	100-100B	100-100B
Japan	180.30-181.05	180.30-181.05	25-32B	25-32B	68-62B
Netherlands	212.87-214.57	212.87-214.57	2-1/2	2-1/2	2-1/2
Spain	2.0529-2.0785	2.0529-2.0785	0.63-0.57B	1.13-1.20B	1.13-1.20B
Sweden	1.7940-1.8140	1.7940-1.7950	1.06-1.05B	1.28-1.26B	1.28-1.26B
Switzerland	1.1129-1.1208	1.1129-1.1208	4-1/2	4-1/2	4-1/2
U.K.	9.8701-9.7710	9.8992-9.7710	4-1/2	4-1/2	4-1/2
West Germany	10.8492-10.5943	10.8492-10.5943	2-1/2	4-1/2	4-1/2
Yen	327.03-328.24	327.03-328.24	4-1/2	4-1/2	4-1/2
Other	19.94-20.04	20.01-20.04	24-1/2	5-1/2	5-1/2
Index	2.5179-2.5274	2.5242-2.5274	4-1/2	14-1/2	14-1/2
Source: Reuters			Percent		Percent

Brazilia dollar	2.4272-2.4303	Austria	11.03-11.0
Brazilian dinar	0.678-0.686	Belgium (Conv)	32.30-32.3
El cruzeiro *	2099.74-2101.27	Canada	1.1465-1.147

Country	Year	Value
Albania	1995	7,695-7,743
Algeria	1995	8,082-8,130
Angola	1995	2,320-2,371
Armenia	1995	1,562-1,569
Australia	1995	7,778-7,787
Austria	1995	4,446-4,456
Bangladesh	1995	118,010-118,014
Belgium	1995	125-126
Brazil	1995	2,940-2,950
Canada	1995	1,655-1,666
Chad	1995	6,170-6,184
China	1995	90-135
Czechia	1995	1,030-1,034
Denmark	1995	90-91
Egypt	1995	7,210-7,220
Finland	1995	1,929-1,935
France	1995	7,695-7,743
Germany	1995	1,562-1,569
Ghana	1995	7,778-7,787
Greece	1995	4,446-4,456
India	1995	118,010-118,014
Indonesia	1995	125-126
Italy	1995	2,940-2,950
Japan	1995	1,655-1,666
Korea	1995	6,170-6,184
Madagascar	1995	90-135
Malaysia	1995	1,030-1,034
Mexico	1995	90-91
Netherlands	1995	7,210-7,220
Norway	1995	1,929-1,935
Poland	1995	7,695-7,743
Portugal	1995	1,562-1,569
Romania	1995	7,778-7,787
Russia	1995	4,446-4,456
Saudi Arabia	1995	118,010-118,014
Spain	1995	125-126
Sweden	1995	2,940-2,950
Switzerland	1995	1,655-1,666

Rates: Clearing Banks 10% Finance Hse 11
 Discount Market Loans: O/night high: 10% Low 9% Week fixed: 10%
 Treasury Bills (Dist): Buy: 2 mth 10% - 3 mth 10% Sell: 2 mth 10% - 3 mth 9%

	1 mth	2 mths	3 mths	6 mths	12 mths
one Bank Bills (Dis):	10 ¹¹ 14	10 ¹² 14	10 ¹² 10	10 ¹² 10	10 ¹² 14
Three Money Rates:	10 ¹¹ 14	10 ¹² 10	10 ¹² 10	10 ¹² 10	10 ¹² 14
Bank:	10 ¹¹ 14	10 ¹² 10	10 ¹² 10	10 ¹² 10	10 ¹² 14
Prime:	10 ¹¹ 14	10 ¹² 10	10 ¹² 10	10 ¹² 10	10 ¹² 14
Brightest open 104, close 114	10 ¹¹ 14	n/a	10 ¹² 10	10 ¹² 10	10 ¹² 14
All Authority Deps:	10 ¹¹ 14	n/a	10 ¹² 10	10 ¹² 10	10 ¹² 14
Depos:	10 ¹¹ 14	10 ¹² 10	10 ¹² 10	10 ¹² 10	10 ¹² 14
CDs:	10 ¹¹ 14	10 ¹² 10	10 ¹² 10	10 ¹² 10	10 ¹² 14
CDs:	4.12-4.07	4.12-4.07	4.12-4.07	4.12-4.07	4.42-4.37
Fixed Society CDs:	10 ¹¹ 14	10 ¹² 10	10 ¹² 10	10 ¹² 10	10 ¹² 14

GDX: Fixed Rate Sterling Export Finance. Make up day: Dec 31, 1991. Agmt: Jan 26, 1992 to Feb 25, 1992. Scheme I: 11.80%. Schemes II & III: 12.06%.
 Reference rate Nov 30, 1991 to Dec 31, 1991: Scheme IV & V: 10.812%.

EUROPEAN COUNCIL

Super	4-5-5	4-5-5	4-5-5	4-5-5	4-5-5
Supermatic	9-9-9	9-9-9	9-9-9	9-9-9	9-9-9
Arch Frame	10-9-9	10-9-9	10-9-9	10-9-9	10-9-9
30 Frame	8-7-8	7-7-7	7-7-7	7-7-7	8-7-8
	5-5-5	5-5-5	5-5-5	4-4-4	5-5-5

High: Open \$354.00-354.40 Close: \$353.75-354.25 High: \$354.25-354.75
 Low: \$352.50-353.00 Kumpgang: \$353.25-354.25 \$196.25-197.25
 Foreign: Old \$84.25-85.25 \$67.25-68.25 New \$84.00-85.00 \$67.00-68.00
 \$67.12-68.12 \$67.25-68.25 \$67.25-68.25 \$67.25-68.25 \$67.25-68.25

New horizons open for Fisons

The precise sequence of events that led to the retirement of John Kerridge at Fisons should perhaps be left to him, his family and his doctor. But pharmaceutical analysts were shocked to learn that Mr Kerridge was going entirely, rather than merely handing over the chief executive's reins to another. Mr Kerridge, who ran Fisons out of Ipswich as something of a personal fiefdom, had occasionally difficult relations with the City and did not care for collaborative ventures with other drug companies. Growing institutional dislike of a dual role and a share price down 43 per cent since the summer meant some change looked inevitable. Mr Kerridge's achievements over the last decade are undeniable: he created, virtually from scratch, Britain's fourth largest pharmaceutical operation and allowed shareholders to ride the wave that produced outstanding results for other drug companies.

The problem facing Mr Kerridge's successor is the gap that has opened up between Glaxo, SmithKline Beecham and Wellcome, the three majors, and Fisons itself, which suggests the company lacks the critical mass to go into the 1990s as an independent.

The problems with the FDA that have sparked the share price decline are something of a temporary blip. The new chief executive, and all the pointers are to an outside applicant with a strong pharmaceuticals background — will be in a better position than Mr Kerridge to consider joint ventures, joint promotions and other strategic link-ups. That is not to say that the hostile assault dreamed of by some state bulls is just around the corner, if only because contested bids are not the rule in pharmaceuticals. But optimists might ponder the analogy with Beecham, once a sleepy drugs concern, where the arrival of Bob Bauman as a new and dynamic chief executive presaged the link-up with SmithKline that created a true world player in pharmaceuticals.

Pounding eases

Sterling is not out of the woods yet but it is looking a lot safer, thanks partly to a technical quirk of the ERM. Until very recently, the so-called "peseta floor" provided no real support for the pound — like the floor of an elevator it simply moved up and down with sterling. But in the last few weeks, this situation has abruptly changed. Last year the Spanish currency generally hovered some 4 to 5 per cent above its central rate against the mark. This left plenty of room for investors to lose money if and when Spain moved its currency into an ERM narrow band. But in the past two weeks the weakness of the pound has dragged the peseta down to within 2 per cent of its central rate against the mark. At this level, the peseta's sky-high interest rates become irresistibly attractive to investors, since there is believed to be no devaluation risk.

As a result, the support for sterling at about its present level may be stronger than generally supposed. For whenever the pound falls below DM2.8350, the peseta automatically moves within 2 per cent above the mark. At this level, the Spanish currency becomes an irresistible buy against the mark. Speculators sell marks against pesetas and as a by-product the mark weakens against the pound as well. This technical oddity could not defend the pound against a really strong speculative attack, but it may just stave off the moment of truth when the pound falls to its ultimate floor of DM2.78 and the government has to choose to devalue or raise interest rates.

Neil Bennett looks ahead to the problems facing the liquidators charged with clearing up the biggest banking failure in history

As one scene of the drama at the Bank of Credit and Commerce International ends, another is just beginning. The new scene will engage a cast of thousands as liquidators, lawyers and bank regulators mill around trying to make sense of the largest and most complex bank failure in history. The audience will need considerable patience since the performance will last well into the next millennium before BCCI is finally laid to rest.

The decision by the High Court in London to place BCCI in formal liquidation was a foregone conclusion. Hopes of rescuing and refloating the bank with new capital and management had evaporated months ago as Touche Ross, the provisional liquidator, uncovered the full extent of the losses. At the hearing, Sir Donald Nicholls, the Vice-Chancellor, summed up the situation when he described the bank as "plainly and hopelessly insolvent".

Figures from Touche Ross demonstrate the bank's dire financial position. BCCI claimed to have gross assets of \$11.7 billion when it was closed on July 5. But a series of provisions and write-offs mean that less than a tenth of this will eventually be available for depositors.

The largest write-off is \$6.33 billion in bad debt provisions on the bank's fraud-riddled loan book. The next, at \$1.91 billion, is for set off, where other banks are withholding BCCI's assets to offset them against its liabilities. Liquidation expenses, asset write-downs and other legal and accounting black holes reduce the assets still further.

Without the Abu Dhabi government, the outlook for BCCI's 800,000 worldwide depositors would be bleak. There would be a scramble in many jurisdictions as creditors and even bank regulators tried to enforce assets to secure preferential treatment.

The ongoing legal actions would last years, if not decades and most of the bank's remaining funds would be spent defending futile lawsuits. Fortunately, Touche Ross and the Abu Dhabi government are close to an agreement which may avoid all this. This involves pooling all the assets of BCCI Holdings and Overseas, the two main companies within the bank group. The Abu Dhabi government, BCCI's 77 per cent shareholder, will then inject an estimated \$3 billion into this.

The scheme would allow Touche Ross to pay a first dividend to BCCI's creditors worldwide of 10 cents in the dollar later this year, and eventually return up to 40 per cent of the bank's deposits.

There are large hurdles to cross before the plan becomes a reality,



however. First, the Abu Dhabi government, led by Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan al-Nahyan, and Touche Ross have to agree to the settlement. Touche Ross announced yesterday that it hoped to sign the agreement by the end of the month.

This however is only the first stage in a delicate piece of international diplomacy. The plan must be approved by courts in Luxembourg and the Cayman Islands, where the bank's main operations were registered, and in Britain.

Most crucially of all, the scheme has to be backed by all BCCI's depositors. Brian Smouha, the BCCI administrator from Touche Ross, is currently travelling around the world sounding out the bank's creditors, and winning their support. All it takes is one or two depositors to object to the terms and to start legal action against the bank to try to recover a higher proportion of their money and the house of cards that has been delicately built over the last six months will collapse.

The scheme will then need to be approved in all the countries where BCCI once operated, unless its operations have already been sold. Insolvency experts have spent 20 years trying and failing to devise a practical code to deal with international liquidations. The accountants and lawyers working on BCCI have been forced to build that framework

in so many weeks. The process will not be cheap: Touche Ross estimates it will cost \$239 million.

Inevitably, some countries will decide to ringfence their operations to secure a better deal for local depositors, however generous the Abu Dhabi offer. Touche Ross has made a \$527 million provision for this.

A number of financial groups and businessmen have recently tried to obscure the issues in the liquidation by proposing plans which they claim will give creditors a far higher payout than the one offered by Sheikh Zayed. Professionals close to the liquidation view any scheme which offers a dividend of 70 per cent or 80 per cent with amazement, since the quality of BCCI's assets simply do not justify it. There is a real risk that these shadowy proposals could obscure the one firm life-line depositors are being offered.

Fortunately, BCCI's British depositors have been treated better than most in the rest of the world. In July, the Abu Dhabi government contributed \$42 million to an emergency compensation scheme for the bank's 38,000 British sterling depositors. The scheme paid three quarters of each deposit up to a £5,000 ceiling.

The maximum sum would have covered the vast majority of BCCI's British customers. Surprisingly,

however, less than a third have applied to Touche Ross for compensation, even though the accountants have sent out 53,000 letters urging people to apply.

Undoubtedly, some depositors are still unaware that the scheme exists, and may have been hampered by language barriers. Nevertheless, the figures show that there are a large number of depositors unwilling to lay claim to their funds, possibly because they are being investigated by tax and customs officers.

The liquidation order granted by the High Court now allows the Bank of England's deposit protection scheme to come into force. This refunds three-quarters of each deposit up to a £15,000 maximum. The scheme will also refund the Abu Dhabi government the amount it has paid out in the interim period.

So only BCCI's larger depositors in Britain will remain seriously out of pocket, including local authorities and Channel 4 television.

The BCCI affair has left no one looking respectable. Bank regulators have appeared naive and incompetent, accountants gullible, and the police ineffective.

Authorities across the world were duped by a systematic fraud on an unimaginable scale. They can only learn by their mistakes.

Lloyd's to present survival blueprint

This morning, Lloyd's of London will present the fourth of the reforming reports that have transformed the face of the insurance market over the past quarter of a century.

Much is expected of the report, as Lloyd's faces problems on perhaps more fronts than at any time in its 300-year history. However, unlike its illustrious forerunners, Cromer, Fisher and Neil, the Rowland report is primarily a soul-searching exercise carried out by the market itself. All but three of the members of the taskforce were insiders and David Rowland, the chairman, heads one of the largest firms of Lloyd's brokers.

His taskforce began life just over a year ago as a relatively low-key examination of the capital base of Lloyd's. It was commissioned by Murray Lawrence, then outgoing chairman, and David Coleridge, his successor. Since then, the extraordinary public airing of Lloyd's problems and the continuing commercial difficulties dogging the market, have raised the status of the report from technical discussion paper to blueprint for survival. Mr Coleridge has promised no sacred cows, so expectations of fairly radical reform have been running high both among those who work at Lloyd's and the names who supply the capital.

Shortest odds among the tipsters are being given on some form of watering down of the practice, but not the principle, of unlimited liability. This would mean that names would continue to operate as sole traders, liable to their last farthing, but that the community as a whole would pick up the tab in excess of a certain point, in the event of truly horrendous losses. The hope is that this form of limited "mutualisation" would restore confidence in Lloyd's to a wealthy potential name who was considering joining but was put off by the unlimited downside risk. In that way Lloyd's could halt the haemorrhaging of names that has afflicted the market in recent years.

Inevitably, this safety net will have to be funded by the names themselves, and the size of the resulting levy on names will be another point of keen interest. There are almost certain to be further technical measures to improve names' confidence in their agents and the syndicates they are placed on.

The report should also have something to say about the traditional but confusing three-year accounting system that operates at Lloyd's. Many have called for a one-year system, in line with the insurance companies, but practical difficulties might make this proposal a bridge too far.

In general, the report will recommend confidence-building measures that can be implemented within the existing legislative framework. The last thing Lloyd's wants right now is a new bill passing through Parliament at a time of widespread public criticism of the market.

JONATHAN PRYNN

THE TIMES CITY DIARY

Butler is back in oil analysis

AFTER two years out of the market, La Butler, once ranked among the top ten oil analysts in the City, has staged a comeback. Butler, aged 47, married to an Oxford academic and the mother of two daughters, aged 23 and 21, has just started work at Panmure Gordon, as its sole analyst covering the oil sector. Since resigning from Laing & Crutchfield in January 1990, after a disagreement over management style, Butler has kept herself busy by assisting, in a consultancy capacity, John Brown, head of exploration at BP and a member of the main board. "I kept turning down offers from various broking firms but being a consultant is a very lonely business and I suddenly realised that I actually missed broking," Butler says. That realisation dawned on her after sharing a pot of tea with John Walsley, finance director of Enterprise Oil. "He said that there was a scarcity of good oil analysts and suggested that I go back into the City," she adds. It will, however, take her time to re-acclimatise. "It all seems terribly strange," she says. "I'd even forgotten how to use Topic."

Family ties

BLOOD really is thicker than water. Bernard Attali, the Algerian-born chairman of Air France, is involved in negotiations for a consortium of investors, led by Air France, to buy up to 40 per cent of CSA, Czechoslovakia's national airline, for \$60 million. A "memorandum of



understanding" to that effect was signed in Prague last week. Although it was not referred to in the memorandum, it is believed that other investors in the consortium are Caisse des Depots et Consignations (the French state-controlled pension fund and savings bank) and the London-based European Bank for Reconstruction and Development, otherwise known as EBRD. EBRD's chairman is Jacques Attali, aged 48, a former French presidential adviser, and Bernard's twin brother.

THE New York Times notes that *The Lord's Prayer* contains 56 words, the 23rd Psalm 118 words and the Ten Commandments 297 words. By contrast, the American department of agriculture's directive on the pricing of cabbage takes no less than 15,629 words.

Ward joins Capita

SHANDWICK, the world's biggest public relations company, has said goodbye to Clive Ward, who joined two

years ago to advise on acquisitions. Ward, who spent two years on the takeover panel in the Seventies, was head of corporate finance at Ernst & Young before signing up as corporate development director at Shandwick in 1990 — at the tail end, as it turned out, of the company's aggressive expansion policy. He has now joined Capita, the management services group, to head a new corporate finance division there. "I advised both companies on their formations," says Ward, aged 46, who has been planning the move for the past year. "I joined Shandwick to help with acquisitions, but my timing wasn't the best. It became apparent to me that I was a cost they could do without."

Taking over panel

WHEN Frances Heaton starts her two-year stint as director general of the takeover panel in March, she will find a growing number of regulators, including Sir David Walker of the Securities and Investments Board, who spent their formative years at the Treasury. However, Mrs Heaton is not without experience of the turgid burly of takeovers. On one occasion, as adviser to TSB, she lost a battle at the panel to push through a bid for Hogg Robinson before the latter demerged itself. Hogg's adviser on that occasion was Geoffrey Barnett of Barings, who has been director general of the panel for the past two years and will soon return to his former bank. The new director general says the panel's decision was "perfectly fair".

CAROL LEONARD

Regulators need fraud early warning system

From Mr Brian Taylor

Sir, Articles in the press have pointed out that someone must have known what was happening inside Maxwell's empire.

Telling the truth can be costly.

I have twice in my career revealed to the regulators of a company that fraud was taking place. On the first occasion, the fraud was so serious it would have threatened the viability of the company's entire Far Eastern operation. For this reason, the company decided to cover up the truth. I was dismissed with a bad reference. My solicitor advised me not to take on a

company with the resources to hire the best defence in the land.

On the second occasion, I was warmly thanked, but my contract was discontinued. The fraudster was subsequently prosecuted. But it was feared I might talk to the staff.

I cannot emphasise too strongly how isolated and vulnerable you feel when you realise that your boss is a crook. You are utterly alone and there is nobody to confide in. Your family will suffer financially if the wrongdoer suspects you know too much. When you think about Maxwell's habit of pursuing his

opponents through the courts, your feeling of horror becomes intolerable.

One answer for the banks, or someone is to set up a scheme to advise innocent directors and accountants who suspect a large-scale fraud. In return, the directors would reveal what they have seen and heard to the regulators. Million-pound fraud is a growth industry.

If the regulators can detect it early, they will save a fortune.

Yours sincerely, BRIAN TAYLOR, 57 Orchard Way, Burwell, Cambridge.

Workfare as opposed to workshare

From Mr John Shedden

Sir, Your correspondent, Mr Jubb, has directed several questions to me (Business letters, January 8), but he will find that most of the points he raises are very fully discussed in Ralph Howell's paper *Why not Work?* to which reference was made in Eamonn Butler's article (December 19). Mr Howell deals with the practical aspects of introducing and running a "workfare" type scheme and draws on the experience of other countries.

As to who would organise

and oversee workfare, it would seem that, being recently retired, the application of Mr Jubb's "workshare" principles would surely disqualify me. Mr Howell's much better suggestion is that some of the organisation's work could be done by persons themselves in workfare, as part of their workfare experience.

Yours sincerely, J.B. SHEDDEN, 6 Barnfield Close, Crookhill, Swansley, Kent.

Economic rule that points to failure

From Mr D.H. Walton

Sir, One economic rule I have never seen written down is: "Socialist systems only work when run by capitalists whilst capitalist systems always fail when run by socialists."

I fear if this rule is as true as

experience has shown, the ex-Soviet empire, which is still largely run by socialists, will unfortunately fail.

Yours truly, DAVID WALTON, 10 St Guthlac's Close, Crowland, Lincolnshire.

Strip tease

From Mr B.S. Hyman

Sir, If Bob Tyrrell of the Henley Centre for Forecasting does succeed in becoming the Gypsy Rose Lee of the financial world (The only place to be is number one, business profile, January 11), I look forward to watching him divest himself of his clothing, item by item, as he feeds us the statistics. Being free, as Gillian Bowditch implies, of the sin of false modesty, he should have nothing to hide.

Sorry Gillian, as older readers will know, Gypsy Rose Lee was a stripper, not a fortune teller. You're thinking of Gypsy Penulengro (the kerchief-headed Russell Grant of my childhood), a bastion of the Woman's Own Centre For Forecasting.

Tyrrell's likelihood of voting Liberal Democrat is particularly interesting. Does this constitute a forecast of their impending success? Yours faithfully, BARRY S. HYMAN, 4 Priory View, Bushey Heath, Hertfordshire.

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No	Company	Group	Share or Item
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2	Photo-Me	Industrial	
3	Genie King	Breweries	
4	LASMO	Oil, Gas	
5	Tarmac	Building, Roads	
6	Dinosac	Drugs, Retail	
7	Bentley	Drugs, Retail	
8	Thames & Lytle	Food	
9	Finland	Breweries	
10	Rugby Group	Building, Roads	
11	Schroder	Bank, Finance	
12	Tesco	Food	
13	BOC	Industrial	
14	Enterprise	Oil, Gas	
15	Transfer Tech	Industrial	
16	Truflair H	Industrial	
17	WPP	Paper, Print	
18	Imvortin Dis	Breweries	
19	Umanor	Oil, Gas	
20	Burmah Castrol	Oil, Gas	
21	Thames Perfor	Building, Roads	
22	GEC	Electrical	
23	Mission Trust	Breweries	
24	Morgan Cde	Industrial	
25	Reed Int	Newspaper, Print	
26	Body Shop	Drugs, Retail	
27	Tipkoff	Transport	
28	Landline Math	Industrial	
29	Nasdaq Pub	Industrial	
30	Quaker Group	Food	
31	Sealey	Building, Roads	
32	Marshall	Drugs, Retail	
33	South West	Water	
34	Eurochem	Electrical	
35	Nobel Foods	Food	
36	Land Sec	Property	
37	Delta	Electrical	
38	Goat Pet	Oil, Gas	
39	Tonkinn	Industrial	
40	Opdyke	Oil, Gas	
41	Br Aerospac	Monitors, Air	
42	Wessex Water	Water	
43	Comradem Tm	Textiles	
44	Br Petroleum	Oil, Gas	

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The 56,000 Portfolio Platinum prize was won yesterday by John Hicks, of Rochester, Kent.

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Prices close at day's high

ACCOUNT DAYS: Dealings began January 13. Dealings end January 24. Settlement day January 27. Settlement day February 3. 5p upward bargains are permitted on two previous business days. Prices recorded are at market close. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices.

MSI use (millions) Company Price 1st 2nd 3rd 4th 5th 6th 7th 8th P/E

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Sec. Small PR Co, 40wpm	£13,000	Administrative, WI, 50wpm	£17,000
Property Co, WI, 50wpm	£13,000	Asst. Mng. Co, WI, 50wpm	£18,000
Recruitment, 30wpm	£14,000	Finance, Director's PA	£21,000

For more information about any of these, or other vacancies, please call Sally Owen, Dames & Moore or Julie Marshall.

Knightsbridge Secretaries
31A Bessie Street, LONDON SW1X 9NR (Knightsbridge Tube)
Telephone: 071 235 8427

LEAP AHEAD IN '92
\$15 - 16.5K + Bens

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Exciting new position for a flexible, willing, intelligent and efficient secretary.

Using your excellent WP/Audio/SH skills, you will be involved in a successful business assisting the smooth running of the Mayfair offices for this small, young, friendly team in a rapidly expanding international Organisation.

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Please send CV with handwritten letter to Box No. 6907.

1992
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Advertising, PR, Film & TV, Books & Magazines

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Salaries range from £10,000-£18,000.

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Some Secretarial Duties. Languages an advantage. Excellent organisational skills. Some experience in arts preferred.

£12,000 p.a.

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071-836 5575.
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£16,000 + Mortgage

Be at the hub and work for the Company Secretary of one of the largest City Banks. Legal or Company Secretarial experience required. Age 23+.

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071 629 9323Personnel Secretary
£14,000 - 16,000

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You are 26+, 'A' level educated or equivalent and have at least 18 months current experience as a recruitment consultant in the London secretarial sector. We are a small privately owned consultancy specialising in the upper secretarial levels where your individuality and professionalism is valued. Our generous salary package relates directly to your enthusiasm, energy and expertise.

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£16,500+ superb benefits
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Benefits include free private health insurance, five weeks' holiday and contributory pension scheme. The office is near Chancery Lane Station.

To apply, send your CV, no later than Monday 22nd January, to:

Barris Robinson,
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2 John Street, London WC2N 2JH.

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INTERNATIONAL
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Written applications to be sent to Box 6911.

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London N1 1EN

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Miles Chloe Le Cam, Administration Manager
Mind Over Media Limited
65-66 Fifth Street, London, W1V 5JA

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There are three positions at different levels, but the common bond between them is an 'A' level education, familiarity with the secretarial role, superior inter-personal skills, commonsense, numeracy and initiative. A knowledge of office automation would be a bonus.

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Minimum age 25 years with some supervisory experience. Initially you would be working with a Divisional Administrator and progress to your own area of responsibility.

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If you would like to know more please call Mary Pettit

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Providing full secretarial support to the Group Legal Advisor, you will tackle a variety of tasks from organising meetings to handling telephone queries and dealing with daily correspondence. Strong organisational skills are essential together with the ability to work under pressure.

Dealing with staff at all levels, you should have a diplomatic and efficient telephone manner, fast, accurate typing and audio experience. Basic word processing skills would be useful although training will be given, and experience or knowledge of a legal environment would be advantageous.

Salary will be around £15,500 depending on experience.

Successful applicants for interview will be contacted within six weeks.

Please write with full CV, quoting reference L/749/T, by 27 January 1992, to Jane Isaacs, Group Legal Advisor, LWT, The London Television Centre, London SE1 8LT.

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✓ Suitably qualified applicants with disabilities will be offered an interview.

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(University of London)

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(South East Thames Region)

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Telephone
071-379 0333

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YOU: Patient, personable, Enduring, nice, calm & super efficient 30+, with 100 Shorthand and fast WP skills. Good knowledge of German essential. Spanish or French useful! Want to know more? Please call NICOLA on 071-494 4820 WORKFLOW REC CONS

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With SHORTHAND AND WP. PLEASE REPLY WITH CV ALONG WITH SALARY EXPECTATIONS TO: AEL SUITE 19, 26 CHANCERY CROSS ROAD, LONDON WC2N 6BN. NO AGENCIES

SECRETARY with shorthand. 100/60 skills. To P.O. Box 1000. Call Lyn White on 071-439 700. Secretaries Plus The Secretarial Consultants

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£16,000-£18,000

Enjoy a PA role assisting the MD of this financial institution in the City. Flexibility in the knowledge as you must be just as happy to 'muck in' with the team as to work on your own initiative. Experience in the City financial environment is essential + good WP skills (shorthand useful). Age 25-35, generous benefits. Call Nan Myers on 071 377 2865

For more information
please telephone 071-248 3244

Elizabeth Hunt
RECRUITMENT CONSULTANTS

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A dynamic associate partner with well known international company seeks a PA with top organisational and interpersonal skills. This is a high profile role where your commitment and flexible approach to overtime will be rewarded by an excellent financial package. Large or international company experience required together with 'A' levels and 60/80+ typing. Age 25-35

For more information
please telephone 071-248 3244

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Shop wisely for investment

The retail sector continues to offer particularly good opportunities, Christopher Warman discovers

There are no illusions that 1992 will be other than difficult for commercial property, but there is at least hope that property investment will increase and that more institutions will allocate new money for the sector than in 1991.

David Ormerod, the managing director of Legal & General Properties, argues that those investors who sold at the top of the market in 1988-9 are likely to start or increase their investment programmes, believing that the commercial property cycle has reached the bottom.

"We expect investors to continue to concentrate on those investment opportunities offering a secure rental income, backed by quality covenants in established locations," he says.

Mr Ormerod also rejects the suggestion that investors should delay until after the outcome of the general election is known. Property, he says, will continue to be attractive to the astute investor, no matter who wins, so there is little reason to regard

the election as the sole reason for delaying property investment decisions.

"Whichever political party is in power six months from now, the reluctance of the economy to climb out of recession will still dominate any investor's agenda because there will be limits to what any government can do to stimulate the economy further," he says.

In the retail sector, there should be particularly good opportunities in 1992, he believes. Legal & General Properties says retail investment has a wide appeal because of the range of let sizes. Demand for space usually continues, even during economic depressions, because big retailers still need to trade from attractive premises on prime pitches.

This marketability makes retail property one of the best investments.

Investors must, however, watch swings in the market as there is likely to be a stronger role for town centres whose environmental and social status the developers have tried

to enhance in the 1990s. But the growth of rental return, even in the more attractive industrial and retail sectors, is still some way off. Much depends on general economic recovery against the background of the present oversupply, Mr Ormerod says.

"As a result, portfolio managers will concentrate their energies more on the marketing of their properties rather than leaving that role entirely to letting agents."

The latest property index published by Investment Property Databank shows that November brought the sharpest positive movement since October 1989.

A total return of more than 0.5 per cent and capital growth only slightly down (0.1 per cent) suggest that investors are regaining confidence.

Rental values, however, continued to fall. In November they lost a further 0.5 per cent, making the annual fall 3.2 per cent. Office rents have been falling at just less than 1 per cent a month for the past eight months.



Pushing the boat out

THE redevelopment of the first strategic site of the east Thames corridor, as identified by Michael Heseltine, the environment secretary, is envisaged in plans submitted by British Gas and Carter Commercial Developments to Newham council in east London, Christopher Warman writes.

The application, coming shortly after the government approved the river crossing adjacent to the site, is for a 1.5 million sq ft business, retail and leisure scheme depicted above in the artist's impression, on the 130-acre Gallions Reach site at Beckton, prepared to a planning brief agreed with Newham council.

Prospects for the £100 million scheme, designed over three years, are

A business and leisure park is planned at a cost of £100 million

good. Conor McAuley, the chairman of the council's environment and planning committee, broadly welcomes the proposal.

He says the scheme has been prepared over three years and that the partnership between British Gas and the council, supported by the environment department and local residents, has led to a project "that meets the

needs of all four parties. It points the way to the future development of the east Thames corridor."

If approved, the area will be developed in the next five to 10 years, and will include a retail park with industrial units, offices and light industrial space. Twenty-five acres in the centre of the development will be devoted to a leisure complex alongside a parkland, with a multi-screen cinema, bowling centre and restaurant.

The scheme, through the establishment of an Enterprise Trust, will provide 100,000 sq ft of managed workspace units, a training centre, children's centre and other social facilities.

The application is likely to be considered early this spring.

Towering success?

Healey & Baker, the international property consultant, has won the biggest recorded letting instruction in Italy: more than 2.7 million sq ft of new office space released by the Ligresti Group in four strategic positions in Milan. The project, Milano Tori, includes 20 high-rise buildings.

The company's annual survey of Europe's leading business cities indicates that Milan's office market has had a limited supply of quality office space, Paul Baker, of the agent's Milan office, says. "Milano Tori has been designed to redress the balance."

Banca Nazionale del Lavoro, Italy's second biggest bank, and SAI, the country's third biggest insurance company, have already taken space in the towers. Healey & Baker, with Stigeb, are offering space at rents from £6 to £15 a sq ft.

Chasterton, another international property consultant, has announced a merger with De Groot Collis, the London surveying firm, the first such marriage between an international consultancy and London-based niche agency/professional business, it claims. With De Groot Collis's turnover of more than £25 million, the UK turnover of the joint company totals about £50 million.

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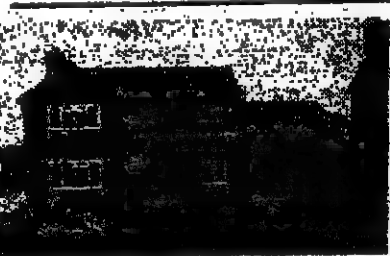
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